

THE TIMES Tomorrow

Cheap at the price
Fashion questions the
value of high street
shops that provide
low-cost clothes



Golden oldie
Part 2 of the American
presidential campaign
series follows Ronald
Reagan's well-trodden
trail

Demolition job
Roger Scruton suggests
tearing down loathsome
modern buildings, even
those designed by the
famous

Teamed up
England Rugby selectors
announce the first team
of the season to play the
World XV at
Twickenham

Portfolio

Double win of £40,000

An Australian woman won the £40,000 dividend in the weekly Portfolio game in *The Times* on Saturday. She is Mrs Gail Forbes, of Tanfield Road, Croydon, who has lived in England for seven years. Yesterday Mrs Forbes, a regular reader of *The Times* was still shocked from her double weekly win but was planning "a good celebration and a holiday".

The £2,000 Daily prize is shared between Mrs Muriel Goldstein, of Fairfax Road, Swiss Cottage, London, and Mr Frank O'Leary, of Cheshfield Lane, Orpington, Kent. There is no Portfolio competition today because of technical problems with the stock exchange prices. Today we carry the weekly changes. Today's £2,000 portfolio prize is held over until tomorrow, when there will be a total of £4,000 to be won.

Honour for absent Chernenko

President Chernenko has been awarded the Order of Lenin to mark his seventy-third birthday today - but no film of the Soviet leader accompanied the news on Moscow television. Rumours are growing that the President may step down because of ill-health or that he may be forced to do so. Page 4

500 arrested at township funeral

Police arrested 500 people at the funeral of a black killed in recent unrest in Soweto township near Sharpeville in South Africa. Sanctions opposed. Page 7

Hongkong deal

The Anglo-Chinese agreement in the future of Hongkong will be initiated in Peking on Wednesday. Page 6

Torrance wins

Sam Torrance won the Barcelona Open golf tournament in a sudden-death play-off with Des Smyth yesterday. Torrance had started the day a stroke behind Smyth. Page 21

Leader page, 11
Letters: On bishop and miners, from Prof A. Marwick, and Mr M. Burn; job mobility, from Mr J. H. Clement, and Mr J. H. Wellings; gallery extension, from Sir James Richards

Leading articles: Miners, Civil Service
Features, pages 8-10
Ken Livingstone's election strategy for Labour; turn of the tide for Israel; how the western arms industry is helping Russia. Spectrum: first of a three-part series on the US election. Monday Page: the housewife who wrote a best-seller. Obituary, page 12
Mr Bruce Greaves, Dr Reidar Sognnaes

World Banking, pages 15-18
World economy examined as the IMF and World Bank open their joint annual meeting in Washington

Home News	2-4	Diary	10
Overseas	4, 6, 7	From Books	28
Arts	12	Religion	12
Science	13	Sports	20-23
Business	14, 19, 20	TV & Radio	27
Chess	7	Theatre, etc	27
Church	12	Weather	28
Court	12	Wills	12
Crusade	28		

Hattersley moves to shift Labour on nationalization

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

A week before the Labour Party's annual conference in Blackpool, Mr Roy Hattersley yesterday stepped up his efforts to move the party away from its traditional attachment to nationalization. Increasingly regarded in its upper reaches as an out-of-date and electorally unpopular policy.

Mr Hattersley, deputy party leader and shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer, told the socialist economic review conference in London that a society in which a higher percentage of productive capacity was owned by the state was unlikely to be highly efficient or truly free.

Instead, in a speech which may be regarded as heresy by the ideological purists on the left, Mr Hattersley called for a widespread extension of social ownership through the creation of new enterprises independent of the Government and said that the time had come to blur the distinctions between the public and private sectors.

Calling on Labour to reopen the debate on public ownership, he argued that the commitment in Clause 4 of the Labour constitution "to secure for the workers by hand and brain the full fruits of their labour", a fundamental tenet of party philosophy, could be achieved by means other than the creation of state monopolies.

He called instead for the promotion by Labour of worker cooperatives, the creation of single publicly-owned companies to compete with the private sectors, and backing for

firms sponsored by local authorities.

"I want to argue for an increase in social ownership. But I do not propose an extension of nationalization. If all we espoused was the creation of more government monopolies, some of our opponents' criticism might be justified. A society in which a higher percentage of productive capacity is owned by the state is unlikely to be highly efficient or truly free", he said.

"Social ownership should give power to the people not to the Government. It is meant to diffuse wealth and influence, not concentrate them in the hands of ministers and civil servants."

Mr Hattersley's speech will intensify the suspicion which he is viewed by the left, which has tabled resolutions for the conference urging that all companies, services and industries sold off by the Conservative Government should be renationalized by Labour.

The view that that is neither desirable nor practicable has gained acceptance within the party's policy-making machinery during the past year, and was reflected by the policy document, published 10 days ago, *A Future that Works*, in whose formulation Mr Hattersley played a leading role. In it British Telecom was the only company specifically named as a certain candidate for renationalization.

Mr Hattersley said in his speech that social ownership,

and socialism itself, had become identified with "the remote and bureaucratic state corporation". Although nationalization remained the right model for the public utilities and strategically sensitive industries, such as oil and the airlines, should have within them a nationally controlled company, that was not an argument against different forms of organization in different sorts of enterprise.

The new enterprises that he was proposing must operate with "competitive efficiency" and the public sector should not be used as "the casualty clearing station of the free enterprise battleground". "The general rule must be that public firms contribute to the efficiency of the economy", he said.

The belief among workers that industry belonged to them could most easily be encouraged by the extension of autonomous social ownership, Mr Hattersley said. He proposed: "The creation of single socially owned companies competing with private firms and involving the workforce in their managements; the establishment of companies owned or sponsored by local authorities; fiscal incentives to encourage the development of cooperative enterprises."

"We must abandon the idea of a mixed economy in which the public and private sectors are wholly distinct from each other. There are common characteristics in both privately and socially owned companies."

Clergy widen pit controversy

NCB hopes Worlock's 'eleventh hour' warning

By Alan Hamilton

The clergy took a further hand in the coal dispute yesterday on the coal-tips of the Bishop of Durham's enthronement address on Friday.

The Most Rev Derek Worlock, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool, told a religious conference in the Isle of Man that the miners' strike was "a symptom of the failure of our society to come to terms with the post-industrial age", and should not be written off as the mere intransigence of two strong-willed men.

"What is to happen to whole communities when the industry, about which their lives have been bound up and upon which their livelihood has depended, is judged to be no longer profitable, practical, or even the best way of doing things, or serving the wider community?"

"That is why this matter concerns all of us, why the whole nation needs to take a very clear look about it as we move towards the eleventh hour of the industrial era", Archbishop Worlock told a meeting of the St Vincent de Paul Society.

The archbishop, whose staff said his address had been written before hearing the Rt Rev David Jenkins's speech, said on the BBC radio programme *The World This Week* yesterday that the church

had a responsibility to create the atmosphere in which reconciliation could take place.

Bishop Jenkins, whose Durham diocese covers a key mining area, had a less kindly reception yesterday from one of his own churchmen, the Rt Rev Douglas Feaver, Anglican bishop of Peterborough, said in a radio interview that Bishop Jenkins "had no sense of time or place".

Bishop Feaver said: "If he wants to get MacGregor (the National Coal Board chairman) to resign, the thing to do is to get to know MacGregor and to put it to him face to face. If he wants to get any sense into Scargill's head, the only way is in strict privacy between the two of them."

"If I wanted the Bishop of Durham to resign, I would not tell him in a sermon in my own cathedral; I would tell him face to face."

If Bishop Jenkins wanted to make a political statement, the time and place to do it would be when he was introduced to the House of Lords, where counter-arguments could be put to him in return. "When he is in a pulpit, he is the Bishop of Durham; when he is on a platform, he is Mr Jenkins," Bishop Feaver said.

Bishop Jenkins's remarks on the "elderly American" Mr Ian MacGregor also came under criticism from Mr John Gummer, the Conservative Party chairman, who is also a lay member of the Church of England General Synod. The bishop was dividing his diocese when he should be uniting it, Mr Gummer said in a radio interview.

"The difficulty for many of us in these circumstances is that on two recent occasions the diocese of Durham has not been given unity but has been given the kind of statement which is that which many of us think is much more important than Continued on back page, col 8

Bishop Worlock: "Symptom of failure"

Crop yields outstrip all expectations

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Any lingering doubts about the phenomenal size and quality of this year's harvest must surely be dissipated by the third and final annual crop survey compiled by *The Times*.

At 7.5 tonnes a hectare, wheat yields are up by 21 per cent on last year and 44 per cent above the average for the past 10 years. On the basis of the Ministry of Agriculture's estimate of a 15 per cent increase in acreage, the harvest could approach 15 million tonnes.

The reported barley yield has likewise shattered all previous records; at six tonnes a hectare it is 22 per cent higher than last year and 36 per cent above the 10-year average. With 8 per cent less planted this year than last, the final tally should still be about a million tonnes higher than last year's 8.5 million tonnes.

Whatever the political and economic implications, Britain's farmers have achieved a spectacular technical success. Whether it will have to be paid for in depressed market prices, and in deliberate restraints on production, remains to be seen.

Mr John MacGregor, Minister of State at the Ministry of Agriculture, said on Friday that he had received no official reports of any serious shortage of storage space, and the ending of the dock strike will have relieved the pressure on granaries.

Mr MacGregor also said that the Government would support severe EEC price restraint, which can be interpreted as a standstill on the level of intervention support, but would oppose production quotas as unworkable. With the Soviet Union reportedly seeking to purchase some 40 million

tonnes after another poor harvest, the cost of disposing of this year's surpluses may not be as heavy as had been feared, and that in turn would weaken the argument for cuts in production.

Farmers taking part in the survey predictably found little to complain about, at least so far as arable crops are concerned, although several commented on the relatively poor performance of spring barley, which was once again affected by drought at the wrong period.

"I am 87 years of age and I have never known a better year," a Shropshire grower writes. "The best harvest ever" is the verdict of a Gwynedd man, who adds that he has been farming since he married in 1927 at the age of 23. "Wheat has not only come up to but exceeds all expectations," a Norfolk farmer



Battle memories: Queen Beatrix and the Prince of Wales talking to an Arnhem veteran at yesterday's memorial service in Oosterbeek.

Veterans remember a bridge too far

From Michael Binyon Arnhem

The Prince of Wales and Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands yesterday joined over 2,000 bemuddled and red-battered veterans and their families to pay homage to the hundreds of British and Polish airborne troops who fell in the battle of Arnhem 40 years ago.

In one of the largest commemorations of the desperate and bloody nine day engagement, the Prince, as Colonel-in-Chief of the Parachute Regiment, laid a wreath of poppies at a memorial service in the military cemetery at Oosterbeek, where 1,747 Allied soldiers are buried.

Queen Beatrix and Prince Claus of the Netherlands also laid wreaths, as did ambassadors of the wartime allies, and many of the veterans and their commanders. They included Major-General Roy Urquhart, aged 82, who commanded the 1st British Airborne Division at Arnhem, General Sir John Hackett, who led the 4th Parachute Brigade, and Major-General John Frost, whose 2nd Battalion held the vital Rhine bridge at Arnhem, the principal objective of the operation, for three-and-a-half days.

The service, conducted by the Rev E. L. Phillips, one of the chaplains at the battle, and three Dutch clergy, brought to an emotional climax a week of ceremonies and poignant reunions between the British veterans and the many Dutch civilians who helped them during and after the battle.

On Saturday 60 paratroopers dropped from old Hercules planes on to the same open heathland where the landing that started Operation Market Garden took place on September 17, 1944. Also on Saturday General Urquhart presented a sword, representing the "spirit of resistance", to the people of Gelderland, the southern Dutch province that later paid such a terrible price for the failure of the Allied attack.

Many of the veterans, some now infirm or in wheelchairs, had travelled from North America and Australia to be at Arnhem last week, and to hear a nostalgic open air concert yesterday evening by Dame Vera Lynn, the "forces sweetheart". Members of the former 1st Polish Parachute Division, whose bravery and losses at

Continued on back page, col 7

US and Bonn split on policy

Dollar expected to fall further

From Sarah Hogg and Bailey Morris, Washington

Finance ministers in Washington for the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank were braced for a further slide in the dollar after Friday's upheaval in the foreign exchange markets and open disagreement on intervention policy between the United States and German governments.

Herr Karl Otto Poehl, president of the German Central Bank, said here yesterday that the Federal Reserve Board had been ready to intervene on Friday if German intervention was not enough to stop the dollar's rise.

But the sharp fall in the dollar after the German bank had sold as much as \$450m in one morning, according to market estimates, meant that the Americans did not have to act.

However, US Treasury officials will not admit that the United States was ready to intervene. The dispute stems from differing interpretations of agreements at both this year's London and last year's Williamsburg economic summit that there would be concerted intervention whenever foreign exchange markets proved "disorderly".

According to the Germans, that agreement was activated on Thursday evening, between the Germans and Americans, with other central bankers watching on the sidelines. The Americans

had agreed to intervene if necessary when the New York market opened. US Treasury officials, however, insist that the markets were not disorderly. Washington is clearly trying to damp down speculation of a change in policy.

Officials and bankers at the meetings were divided in their views as to whether the dollar's fall on Friday was a market adjustment to its earlier strength, or the start of serious decline.

US economic indicators, and the growing US trade deficit, were cited as reasons for the decline, but the five-point gap in interest rates cited by the West Germans was seen as a limiting factor. However, most observers in Washington believed Friday's downward movement had further to go.

The dollar overshadowed early discussions at the IMF and World Bank meetings, with European governments again pressing for reductions in the US deficit.

But finance ministers also reached agreement on a modest cutback in IMF loan limits, and on the need for a "dialogue", or extended meeting, in the spring to satisfy Third World demands for a summit.

They also quashed a proposal for a new allocation of reserves, or special drawing rights, to member governments.

IMF tightens purse strings. Lenders under fire, page 19

Hints of Gromyko surprise

From Richard Owen Moscow

Mr Andrei Gromyko may surprise the world this week by offering the United States a new arms control proposal or a new format to replace the abandoned Geneva arms talks, some diplomats here believe. A Soviet initiative could emerge from Mr Gromyko's speech at the United Nations General Assembly on Thursday or during his talks with Mr Reagan at the White House on Friday.

Other sources, however, emphasize the Soviet line that the Reagan-Gromyko encounter is at the request of the Americans, not the Russians, and that Mr Gromyko will do little more than repeat standard Soviet accusations against the United States. The Kremlin's main purpose, these sources say, is to show that it, too, favours dialogue.

Those who support the view that Mr Gromyko has something up his sleeve point to three developments:

1. Despite President Chernenko's deteriorating health and the consequent struggle for power in the Kremlin, the Politburo has remained capable of decisive action.
2. British scholars and military experts, led by Admiral James Eberle of Chatham House and Professor John Erickson of Edinburgh University, said after four days of talks with Soviet counterparts last week in Moscow that they had the impression Moscow wanted to resume arms talks soon.
3. In a series of articles the Soviet press has recalled the 1939 Nazi-Soviet Pact, arguing that it was needed to avert war and that the lessons of 1939 were still relevant today.

Washington initiative and Peking talks, page 4

British tourist knifed in Spain

By Our Foreign Staff

A British holidaymaker, Mr David Mathieson, aged 43 from Fife, was stabbed to death in front of his wife and son in a lonely road at Lloret del Mar, on the Spanish Costa Brava, in the early hours of Saturday morning.

According to British diplomats, Mr Mathieson and his family were walking back to their hotel in a party of eight or nine when a car containing at least three Spaniards tried to run down the group. The Spaniards got out of the car and Mr Mathieson was stabbed when he tried to prevent the men stealing his wife's handbag. No one else was hurt.

Mrs Sheila Mathieson, her son David (14) and daughter Angela (15) were cared for yesterday by the British Consulate in Barcelona before being flown back to Britain.

Mr Gordon Brown, Labour MP for Dunfermline East, is asking the Foreign Office to conduct an inquiry into the policing of Spanish resorts, and the Association of British Travel Agents is to protest to Spain about this latest in a series of violent incidents involving British tourists in Spain.

Earlier this month two 20-year-old hitchhikers, Claire Soper and Diana Bond from Exeter, were blasted by a sawn-off shotgun and robbed by three men near Madrid. A few days before that, Linda Bradley, aged 25, of Southwick, was stabbed to death in Torremolinos by three men trying to steal her handbag. Last month 17-year-old Niall Metcalf of Cheshire died after being hit over the head with a champagne bottle on the Costa Brava, and in April a south London businessman, Gordon MacLachlan, suffered severe knife wounds after a fight with two Spanish heroin addicts in Torremolinos.

Manufacturing growth expected to continue

Manufacturers expect the level of business to continue to increase over the next four months despite the docks and miners' strikes, according to the latest monthly survey by the Confederation of British Industry.

However, the survey suggests that the growth in output may be slower than before. The number of companies expecting an increase in their production fell slightly in the September survey, compared with the previous two months. Of the 1,657 questioned, 24 per cent expected a rise in output compared with 12 per cent expecting a fall and 63 per cent no change.

CBI believes that this may be partly due to the dock strike, since most of the survey was carried out before it ended.

Which of these languages would you like to speak?

Tick the one you want to speak in 3 months' time!

- | | |
|---|---|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> American English | <input type="checkbox"/> Indonesian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arabic (Modern) | <input type="checkbox"/> Irish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese (Mandarin) | <input type="checkbox"/> Italian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Danish | <input type="checkbox"/> Japanese |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dutch | <input type="checkbox"/> Malay |
| <input type="checkbox"/> English | <input type="checkbox"/> Norwegian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> English (Intermediate) | <input type="checkbox"/> Polish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> English (Advanced) | <input type="checkbox"/> Portuguese |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finnish | <input type="checkbox"/> Russian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> French | <input type="checkbox"/> Serbo-Croat |
| <input type="checkbox"/> French (Intermediate) | <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish (of Latin America) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> German | <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish (Castilian) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> German (Intermediate) | <input type="checkbox"/> Swedish |
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Lawyers to offer national high street network for conveyancing by computer

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Law Society is expected to give clearance soon to a group of solicitors who want to create the first nationwide network of solicitors offering a competitive high street conveyancing service.

The idea started with about 50 solicitors in Liverpool, representing six firms, who intend to link together to share overheads and offer a conveyancing service under the registered name of Conveyancing Exchange Ltd.

Now some of them plan to launch the scheme nationally, aiming for a possible membership of 1,500 branch offices, or 10 per cent of the profession, who will all use the name under licence or franchise.

The scheme would be the first to be promoted nationally by a group of solicitors and the first to take full advantage of the relaxation of rules on advertising which comes into force on October 1.

Mr Laurence Bennett, one of the founders, said: "It was a question of survival. With proposed competition from the banks and building societies and estate agents, we thought we must have a marketing strategy to tell the public what we did and that it was the best on offer."

The group will provide a standard fixed price conveyancing service throughout the country which will be highly competitive and in some areas considerably cheaper than fees now charged.

Solicitors who join the scheme will display the logo in their windows, and be required to conform to certain standards of practice and procedure. They will have to acquire and use the group's computer conveyancing system, which will give them electronic access to building societies, local authorities (for searches) and eventually, when it is computerized, the Land Registry.

Three large building societies have agreed to establish experimental computer links with the scheme.

In return, solicitors will benefit from heavy professional advertising, nationally and locally. Conveyancing Exchange has already appointed ARC International to handle advertising which, it is estimated, will be worth £3m in the first year.

The scheme has already received about 800 inquiries from interested solicitors and now awaits formal clearance by the Law Society. After that it will launch a recruitment campaign, taking on suitable firms on the basis of location and general attitude.

Mr David Deacon, another founder, said: "We want solicitors who wish to give their clients a good service for a fair price and so enhance the image of the profession."

A national marketing campaign will follow, and is likely to attract substantial mortgage facilities which individual firms could not hope to raise, allowing the service to start next March.

There will be stringent controls and supervision by local committees of the standard of service offered by all franchise holders.

Mortgage reform to aid housing urged

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

Reform of the system of mortgage tax relief, using it as a housing subsidy to help those in housing need, and more investment to provide rented housing for those who cannot afford to buy are suggested by the Catholic Housing Aid Society in evidence to the inquiry into housing chaired by the Duke of Edinburgh.

The society says that the reform of mortgage tax relief, which exceeds public sector subsidies, would require important changes in taxation, but such an approach was essential.

The present distribution of tax relief and subsidies is inequitable, both within and between tenures. At present, the people who receive the greatest subsidies are those in the higher tax brackets, while the number of those in housing need grow greater as public resources to housing are reduced.

The society argues that the system of tax relief does not stimulate house building, improvement and maintenance, nor does it provide adequate assistance with housing costs to those most in need.

"Freedom of choice for the vast majority of people we advise is a myth. Far from helping them to gain a greater sense of control over their own lives, we find ourselves in the position of being forced to bring home to them the reality of their lack of choice," it says.

Calling for greater public investment in housing, Miss Robina Rafferty, assistant director of the society, commented that what those who came to see them were looking for was a secure home, in good condition, at a price they could afford.

"It does not seem an unreasonable demand. Yet often all that we can offer is help with an immediate problem, such as supplementary benefit. It is scandalous that so many people are suffering because housing is regarded as such low priority."

A national investigation into "crumbling" council homes has been demanded by the Institute of Housing in its report to the housing inquiry (the Press Association reports).

Mr Peter McGurk, the institute's director, said: "Much of the high-rise housing which shot up two decades ago has already begun to crumble."

"Unless we address ourselves immediately to the appalling state of some of our older housing, we will slip back towards the standards of housing quality which existed last century."

Rating call on homes' energy use

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Home buyers in Britain should be able to know how energy-efficient houses on sale are, according to a report published by the Association for the Conservation of Energy.

The first detailed study by the association investigated the United States system of awarding houses a home energy rating.

Mr Andrew Warren, the association's director, said: "With people often paying more for their fuel than for their rates it makes sound sense to try to develop an objective measure by which to judge the energy-efficiency of a home. This can be a particular boon to all those changing home."

The association found that four rating schemes are being tested in the USA: prescriptive ratings which award points for energy-saving devices in the home; site-specific ratings which use computer programmes to make precise assessments of each home; schemes which group dwellings under categories in a simplified specific rating system; performance-based rating systems using evidence of previous fuel consumption.



The Queen watching the Duke of Edinburgh compete yesterday in the National Carriage Driving Championship at Windsor, where he was runner-up in the pony team event (Photographs: Julien Herbert). Report page 21.

Duke sues fire alarm firm

The Duke of Argyll is suing a fire alarm company for damages for "anxiety and great distress" to himself and his family resulting from a fire in his Scottish home at Inveraray Castle, in Argyll, last December.

The duke, aged 47, and trustees of the tenth duke have issued a High Court writ against Gent Ltd, of Leicester, which installed a fire alarm system in the castle. The fire is said to have broken out in a library three days after the system was tested. The duke and the trustees are claiming a total of £3,400.

In 1975, a £1m fire destroyed many treasures of the Argyll family.

Dartington head on leave

Dartington Hall School in Devon is to appoint a new headmaster.

Mr Roger Tibbels, aged 45, the joint headmaster, who was named after the resignation of Dr Lyn Blackshaw, is to take a 12-month sabbatical from next Monday. He will undertake promotional work.

Mr Tibbels denied yesterday that he was being dismissed. "If I was being booted out they would not have given me the option to go back, and I certainly would not be undertaking promotion work for the school."

He said that the sabbatical had been arranged before Dr Blackshaw arrived. Controversies of the past 12 months and my appointment as headmaster it was postponed again.

In the past year Dr Blackshaw disclosed that the school was rife with under-age drinking, sex and drugs. He resigned after nude pictures of him and his wife were published.

Boats sunk by freak waterspout

A waterspout of exceptional size struck the harbour area at Barmouth on the mid-Wales coast on Saturday evening, sinking three boats and damaging three others as it swept into the Mawddach estuary.

The spout was generated by freak wind conditions in Cardigan Bay and Mr John Stockford, commodore of the Menoneth Yacht Club estimated it at about 150ft high and 100yds wide.

The whirling mass of water plucked boats 15ft into its centre and lifted tons of sand from the seabed. Heavy ornamental seats on the quay were hurled away and a flagpole snapped. People on the beach and the quay ran in fear as the spout appeared to be heading for the town.

Mr Stockford said: "It struck the railway bridge and that helped to break it up."

Squirrel pie 'regretted'

Officials of the Forestry Commission have been embarrassed by the choice of venison and squirrel pie for a lunch to be attended by Sir David Montgomery, the commission's chairman, tomorrow during a seminar on wildlife at a conservation plantation in Rhelais Forest, Neath, West Glamorgan.

The Commission said it regretted any embarrassment to Sir David and the guests that the menu might cause.

Plough winner

Mr Desmond Wright, a Department of Agriculture inspector from Coleraine, Northern Ireland, won the world ploughing match championship held at Wispington, Lincolnshire, at the weekend.

Bus champion

Mr Roy Blaikie, aged 36, of Newlands Gardens, Workington, Cumbria, won the title of UK Bus Driver of the Year in Blackpool yesterday. He beat 92 rivals.

RETIREMENT PENSION WIDOW'S BENEFIT CHILD'S SPECIAL ALLOWANCE CHILD BENEFIT

How to get your benefit during DHSS industrial action

We are sorry that industrial action at our Newcastle computer centres means that some changes are still necessary in the way some benefits are paid.

If you get your pension book from a local DHSS office because your retirement pension is combined with supplementary pension, you can ignore this information. Otherwise, please check below to see whether you are affected, then follow the advice given.

RETIREMENT PENSION, WIDOW'S BENEFIT, CHILD'S SPECIAL ALLOWANCE OR CHILD BENEFIT

If you have a current order book continue to cash it at the post office in the usual way until it runs out.

When your order book runs out you can still be paid on it at the post office. But the post office can only make one emergency payment at a time, so go there every week, or every 4th week if you are paid 4-weekly. Take your old order book with you, and your second book if you have one. If you can't go there yourself someone else can collect your money for you, but they must take evidence of their own identity with them.

If you are temporarily away from home you can get up to two emergency payments on your old book at another post office. Check the notes on the inside back cover of your order book.

If you do not collect your payments every week, the missed payments will be made to you when normal service is resumed. If you cannot wait until then, contact your local DHSS office.

However, you cannot be paid on your old order book if

- your book was for widow's allowance (contact your local DHSS office for advice), or
- you have applied to change to payment by credit transfer (see below).

RETIREMENT PENSION OR WIDOW'S BENEFIT ONLY

If you are already paid by credit transfer, payments will normally continue to be made to your account at the same rate as your last payment. If no payment is made, contact your local DHSS office.

If you have applied for payment by credit transfer but no payment has yet been made into your account, contact your local DHSS office. Let them have your old order book if you still have it.

Payable orders cannot be issued by the Newcastle computer centre during the industrial action. If you are normally paid 4-weekly or quarterly by payable order, write to, phone or call at your local DHSS office (or if you live outside the UK write to DHSS Overseas Branch, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE98 1YX). Let them have your full name and address and the whole tear-off portion of your last payable order, if you still have it. Otherwise, give your pension number, the type of pension, the weekly amount and the normal payment interval. You only need to do this once.

CHILD BENEFIT ONLY

If you are already paid by credit transfer, or if we have written to say you will be paid in this way when your order book runs out, your payments should not be affected. But there may be slight delays in crediting your account. If a payment has not been made by the due date and you cannot wait a few days, contact your local DHSS office for advice. Let them have your old order book if you still have it.

New claims

If you have claimed child benefit for the first time, or have claimed for another child, there may be some delay before we can pay you. This applies whether you have asked for payment by order book or credit transfer. If you cannot wait, contact your local DHSS office.

If you don't have your order book or there is a change in your circumstances, please get in touch with your local DHSS office. Please do not write to DHSS Newcastle (unless you live abroad) until further notice.

Department of Health and Social Security

Restaurant guide for nonsmokers

By Our Social Services Correspondent

Action on Smoking and Health has produced a guide to non-smoking restaurants in London as the first step towards a UK guide to dining out for non-smokers.

What ASH claims is the first guide for non-smokers to London's restaurants lists 69 establishments ranging from Harrods to hamburger bars and from chain stores such as Littlewoods and British Home Stores, to restaurants such as Locketts and Cranks, which now provide either non-smoking tables or sections or complete smoking bans.

Mr David Simpson, director of ASH, said: "This is just the beginning. Now that non-smokers are realizing they do not necessarily have to have their meals spoiled by the minority of customers who still smoke, there is a rapidly increasing demand for guides like this."

ASH Guide to Restaurants in London, (25p post free from 5-11 Mortimer Street, London W1A 7RH).

Taxi drivers move into the credit card market

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

Birmingham is about to become the first city in Britain to follow the American trend and accept credit cards for taxi rides.

Its 150 taxi drivers have agreed to accept British Rail's Travel Key card using a small pocket imprinting machine, and the practice could soon spread to other cities and other credit cards.

Most British taxi drivers insist on cash, partly because they think it encourages tipping, and partly because they dislike the paperwork and the fee involved in credit cards. But in the US, credit cards have become widespread, partly because taximen face a risk of robbery.

"Things are not as bad as that here," Mr John Jeffries, secretary of the Birmingham Taxi Association, said. "But there are other benefits both for our drivers and for their customers. This is the age of plastic money, and our drivers want to keep up with the trend, the cloth cap and muffer went out here long ago. It should bring in more business. Mr Jeffries said, because rail and taxi fares can be charged on the same card and card users are offered discounts on rail and hotel charges.

"We are taking care of the paperwork."

Peace tax protest ends

A peace protester has decided to pay a £165 tax bill under protest after the issue of a warrant of execution by the court which told him to pay.

Mr Edward Stanton, aged 47, a gardener from Witherlack, near Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria, has been fighting a long court battle against paying taxes that could be used for the manufacture of weapons of mass destruction. The original debt was for £460 but after a hearing more than a year ago he then made two compromise payments.

Hero of St Paul's sells medal

The man who saved St Paul's Cathedral from destruction by a huge exploded bomb at the height of the blitz is selling the George Cross he earned by his bravery.

Forty-four years ago George Wylie, now aged 75, was a national hero. His courage as a bomb disposal engineer saved Wren's cathedral, and King George VI made him one of the first recipients of the then-newly created George Cross.

The medal comes under the hammer at Sotheby's on November 1.

Sapper George Wylie was a member of a six-man Royal Engineers bomb disposal team working in London when a one ton bomb, one of the biggest dropped on London in 1940, fell near the west end of the cathedral on the night of September 12, 1940.

The bomb, which was powerful enough to blow the cathedral to pieces, buried itself more than 27 feet under Dean's Yard, fracturing a gas main as it fell.

Three sappers were overcome by gas before the main, which caught fire, was isolated. Mr Wylie located the bomb and began digging.

For three days while Wylie

speed to Hackney Marshes by Wylie's commanding officer, Lieutenant Robert Davies.

When Lt Davies blew it up, the explosion left a crater 100ft across.

Lt Davies also received the George Cross for his courage and in June, 1941, he and Wylie, by then promoted to corporal, went together to Buckingham Palace to receive their medals from the King.

A notice in *The London Gazette* said: "Sapper Wylie's untiring energy, courage and disregard for danger was an outstanding example to his comrades."

The medal is expected to make as much as £10,000.

Mr Wylie, who now lives in east London, was reluctant to discuss his reasons for the sale. Independent sources have confirmed that he is the seller, but Sotheby's has declined to identify the vendor.

The Victoria Cross and George Cross Association described a sale by a living medal holder as "almost unprecedented."

Lt Davies's George Cross was sold last October at Sotheby's for £16,000. Mr Davies died in 1975.

Three-way traffic in superpower diplomacy

Washington takes the initiative on improving relations with Kremlin

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

This week the United States and the Soviet Union, having spent the past three years growing at each other, will make a concerted attempt to lay the groundwork for a more constructive relationship over the next few years.

Beginning with President Reagan's address to the United Nations today and ending with his White House meeting with Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, on Friday, the Administration will make the utmost effort to convince the Kremlin of its genuine desire to improve relations and to negotiate arms reduction agreements.

Although no one in Washington knows exactly what Mr Gromyko will say to the President, officials who keep track of Soviet affairs believe he will react positively to the new US initiative.

They do not, however, expect any tangible results to emerge

this week. Mr Gromyko's talks with President Reagan and with Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, whom he is to meet on Wednesday, are mainly intended to improve the atmosphere between the superpowers and to examine areas of possible progress in three main spheres - arms control, bilateral relations and regional conflicts such as Central America and the Middle East.

Furthermore, officials are concerned that Mr Gromyko may take umbrage if, as seems certain, President Reagan and Mr Shultz raise the issue of human rights in the Soviet Union, particularly the case of Mr Andrei Sakharov.

As evidence of the Americans' desire for improved relations, President Reagan will propose regular high-level meetings between top Soviet and US officials, including foreign and defence ministers.

The long-term aim of the

increased contacts would be an eventual meeting between the US and Soviet Presidents. Although the United States will not propose an early summit, a senior official who briefed journalists on the Reagan-Gromyko talks said Washington would be receptive if Moscow proposed one.

This represents a relaxation of the Administration's previous insistence that the President would consider a summit only if it was well prepared and had a reasonable chance of success.

The senior official emphasized that the United States would be "flexible" in its future dealings with the Soviet Union. "We want to build a sustained dialogue and we are not wedded to any particular format," he said.

The Americans hope that this flexible approach will ease the way for the Soviet Union to

return to the talks on reducing medium and long-range nuclear missiles which it walked out of at the end of last year.

The official also reiterated that the United States was prepared to hold talks with Moscow on banning the militarization of space, which is a particular concern of the Soviet Union. Moscow proposed talking about space weapons last June, but rejected an American counter-proposal to bring medium and long-range nuclear weapons into the same talks.

The United States has been attempting to improve relations with the Soviet Union since the beginning of the year, but its efforts were spurned by Moscow. However, it is now believed that the Kremlin, believing that President Reagan will be re-elected to another four-year term in November, is prepared to respond positively to the US initiative.

More doubts as Chernenko turns 73

From Richard Owen, Moscow

There are growing rumours in Moscow that President Chernenko, who turns 73 today, may step down or be forced to do so.

The rumours appear to stem from sources embarrassed by Mr Chernenko's three recent television appearances which have under scored his deteriorating health.

The most recent, last Friday evening, was heavily edited. Russians were shocked by the Soviet leader's obvious ill health and shortness of breath when he gave a recorded address to Finnish and Soviet viewers.

Informed sources said no move against the Soviet leader was likely as long as Mr Andrei Gromyko, the veteran Foreign Minister and senior Politburo member, was out of the country attending the United Nations

General Assembly. He is also meeting President Reagan. At a critical point in Soviet-American relations the Kremlin must present a united front at all costs, the sources said. But Mr Gromyko cannot offer or even discuss a future Reagan-Chernenko encounter as long as the Soviet leader is physically incapacitated.

Some observers argue that although President Chernenko is rapidly becoming a cipher, this suits the party apparatchiks who elected him and who do not want a strong and assertive politician, such as Mr Mikhail Gorbachev or Mr Grigory Romanov, in power. No Soviet leader has ever relinquished power voluntarily.

"Mr Chernenko is becoming little more than an awardee of medals", one Kremlin watcher commented at the weekend.

Of the two posts he holds he seems to be exercising only the nominal powers of the state presidency. His political grip is obviously slipping.

Observers will be watching today to see how Mr Chernenko's birthday is treated by the press and television. Yuri Andropov's birthday during his time in power was marked modestly, but Leonid Brezhnev was usually given lavish treatment, and Mr Chernenko has sought to emulate the Brezhnev personality cult.

Since he reappeared after a summer break earlier this month, President Chernenko has awarded medals to cosmonauts and a Greek Communist leader. On both occasions he stood stiffly and read from a piece of paper with great

difficulty because of breathing problems.

Last Friday, the Soviet leader gave an address marking the fortieth anniversary of Russia's armistice with Finland, but this time he was sitting and the speech was recorded in several takes, with Mr Chernenko peering to read from a cue card. Western technicians noted the position of Mr Chernenko's hands and concluded the film had been edited at least nine times.

Mr Chernenko took power in February after the death of President Andropov but he has failed to impose his stamp on the Kremlin so far. His television appearances are clearly designed to counteract speculation about his political standing, but are having the opposite effect.

Gromyko talks point to further thaw with Peking

From Zoriana Pysarskiy, New York, and David Bonavia, Peking

Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, and Mr Wu Xueqian, his Chinese counterpart, on Saturday ended two days of talks aimed at improving relations between the two countries.

They were the highest level talks between Soviet and Chinese officials since 1969, although Mr Wan Li, the Chinese Deputy Prime Minister, attended the Moscow funeral of President Andropov in February.

The Russian occupation of Afghanistan, the Vietnamese military presence in Cambodia,

and Sino-Soviet border tensions were the main topics. China has said repeatedly that these issues are among the most important standing in the way of a profound thaw between the two countries.

Later this week Mr Gromyko will meet President Reagan in Washington.

Experienced observers in Peking said that, although the talks may herald further improvements in Sino-Soviet relations, they doubted that anything resembling the close alliance of the 1950s could be

restored in the foreseeable future.

The last official contacts at a level higher than that of deputy minister occurred in 1969, when Zhou Enlai, then Prime Minister, met Alexey Kosygin, his Russian counterpart, in Peking. Zhou later accused the Russians of failing to implement the agreement he reached with Kosygin for the withdrawal of forces from disputed border areas.

Since then China's hostility has focused on Moscow's foreign policy, especially with regard to Afghanistan, Cambo-

dia, and the stationing of troops and missiles in Mongolia, on China's borders.

China has dropped its once fierce criticism of the internal situation in the Soviet Union, and has stopped calling it "revisionist". It has also agreed to a slight improvement in cultural, sporting and trade relations, and resumed such relations with other Warsaw Pact countries.

But the Chinese leadership is thought still to mistrust the Soviet Union as a greater threat to world peace than the United States.

Afghan pilot defects to Pakistan

From Hasan Akhtar, Islamabad

An Afghan Air Force colonel who flew his Soviet-made AN-26 aircraft to Pakistan on Saturday has asked for asylum, the Government said here yesterday.

A spokesman said four other Afghan Air Force officers were on board the light tactical transport plane, but he did not say if they too had sought asylum.

● MOSCOW: Jacques Abovchar, the French television reporter taken prisoner in Afghanistan last week, had "spying equipment" in his possession, "Tass said yesterday (AFP reports).

Radio Kabul yesterday said Mr Abovchar was in the custody of Afghan security forces.

Stealing the Democrats' clothes

From Christopher Thomas, Milwaukee

President Reagan sounds ever more like the Democrat he once was. He continually evokes the names of almost every Democratic President of the past 40 years, with the conspicuous exception of Mr Jimmy Carter.

In so doing he hopes to tempt huge numbers of registered Democrats to defect to him in November, as they did in 1980. When addressing blue-collar workers, in particular, he sings a Democratic tune. Nowhere in his speeches is there mention of welfare cheats or irresponsible trade unions, and certainly no reference to the cuts in Medicare and other Democratic social programmes that he plans.

Rather, he touches an historical Democratic chord, frequently quoting Lincoln's assertion that America is the last best hope of mankind. He draws distinctions between the

vibrant Democratic Party of old, and the one represented by the decidedly uncharismatic Mr Walter Mondale.

It is in predominantly blue-collar towns like Milwaukee that the message is proving so powerful. Local Democratic leaders grudgingly admit that Mr Reagan will capture a large slice of the working class vote because Mr Mondale presents such a gloomy picture of himself and of the United States.

Democratic campaign managers concede that it is difficult for Mr Mondale to compete with the widespread, working class perception that Mr Reagan is a real man, a real leader, somebody who stands up to the

Russians. The Grenada invasion enhanced the image. So, paradoxically, did his crushing defeat of the striking air traffic controllers in 1981.

The Democrats have tried strenuously to tarnish the image. They keep raising the Lebanon debacle, but somehow it will not stick.

Mr Reagan last voted for a Democratic president 36 years ago. I changed when I found that I could no longer follow the course of the leadership of that party," he says.

Mr Mondale, somewhat limply, has been saying that Mr Reagan's tax policies have substantially increased taxes on people earning less than \$10,000. He told meat packers at Ralph's Grocery Company in Compton, California: "I'm mad. I'm angry. I'm damned mad because I don't think that it's right."

Despite superlatives, the message demonstrably has not got across. Spectrum, page 8



Low Profile: Zola Budd slipping quietly away from her brother's wedding in Bloemfontein at the weekend. She refused to answer questions on reports that she might stay on in South Africa.

Tough anti-inflation package hits shekel in the pocket

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv

The Cabinet decided, in Jerusalem yesterday to siphon vast sums of shekels from the pockets of Israelis as a prelude to a direct assault on inflation.

Talking to the press after the cabinet meeting, Mr Yitzhak Modai, the Finance Minister, said the measures include income tax reforms, calculated to increase revenue by the equivalent of \$150m (£119m), a one-time tax on motor vehicles, private boats and aircraft, equipment, supplies and commercial premises, and a reduction of government subsidies on essential commodities.

Mr Modai also reported progress in implementing the Government's decision to slash the \$20,000m annual budget by

\$1,000m. He said details were already worked out concerning most ministries, but there were still difficulties about cuts in education and culture, national insurance, religious affairs, water and settlements. The differences will be adjudicated by a committee of four ministers headed by the Prime Minister.

Mr Modai said details of the income tax measures were completed by the Cabinet yesterday, and were now being drafted. The ministerial economics committee is working on details of a property tax, but the Cabinet decided they should not exceed 2 per cent and should be payable in instalments.

Israelis foil guerrilla boat attack

From Our Correspondent, Beirut

At least six people, one of them a woman and all said to be guerrillas, were shot dead yesterday during two separate attacks on Israel's occupation army in southern Lebanon.

A boat approached the Israeli checkpoint at the Awali River from the north, crossing a woman, said by French, opened fire on the Israelis with a rocket-propelled grenade. The vessel was chased to the rivermouth by an Israeli gunboat, where the woman and two of the four men on board were reported by witnesses to have been killed.

Five Israeli soldiers were also reported wounded near Nabatieh yesterday and the Israelis later said they had shot dead three guerrillas, recovering their rifles and ammunition.

Turning tide, page 10

France will extradite 3 Basques

Paris (AP) - France yesterday

decided to extradite to Spain three members of the Basque separatist movement ETA and expelled four others to the West African state of Togo.

The seven men and an eighth whose extradition has not been requested by Spain, were in the forty-sixth day of a hunger strike in Fresnes prison against extradition, claiming the right to be political refugees.

The office of the French Prime Minister, M Laurent Fabius, said the three to be extradited had appealed to the Council of State, the nation's highest court and the council would hear the appeals on Wednesday or Thursday.

Cuban guilty of terrorism

New York (Reuters) - A Cuban exile described as the leader of the anti-Castro guerrilla group, Omega, was convicted here of 25 charges including murder and bomb attacks.

Edward Arocena, aged 41, faces a mandatory life sentence for murdering Felix Garcia Rodriguez, an attaché at the Cuban Mission to the United Nations in 1980. He was also found guilty of the attempted murder of the Cuban representative at the UN.

Poles escape in container lorry

Vienna (AP) - Three Poles, aged between 20 and 24, braving Polish and Czechoslovak border controls, escaped to Austria inside a container on a lorry, the police reported yesterday.

It was not known how they survived the two-day trip of 500 miles. They hid in the sealed container, loaded with textiles.

Angry Chad

Najamena (AFP) - Chad Government officials bitterly attacked the "imposition" of foreign observers to monitor the agreed withdrawal of French and Libyan troops from the country. A close colleague of President Hissene Habre said that France had behaved "as if Chad did not exist".

Swiss say no

Zurich (Reuters) - Swiss voters rejected a proposed ban on new nuclear power plants in a public referendum. They also rejected an energy-saving programme which would have been financed by a new tax on users of energy.

Out of the blue

Delhi (AFP) - Two people were killed and three others were injured when they were hit by food packets dropped by helicopter to flood victims in Assam.

Message in journalists' expulsion

'Go and don't come back'

From Robert Fisk, Bate Bridge, Lebanon

After the arrest of four Western journalists, two of them from *The Times*, by the Israeli Army in southern Lebanon and their eviction under armed guard from the Israeli-occupied area of the country, an Israeli military spokesman in Tel Aviv has stated that correspondents are no longer permitted to travel from Beirut to southern Lebanon.

This new restriction, if it continues in force, means that reporters will no longer be able to cover the guerrilla war against Israel's occupation army at first hand or investigate independently any of the killings taking place in the south of Lebanon.

Mr Charles Wilson, the executive editor of *The Times* who was visiting Lebanon, Mr Gerry Labelle, the Beirut news editor of the Associated Press, Ms Scheherazade Faramarzi of AP and myself were all ordered out of Israel's occupation zone on Thursday by an Israeli army captain after we had travelled to the office of the Israeli army's official spokesman at Kfar Falous near Sidon and asked for a press briefing on the situation in southern Lebanon.

When we asked to see the spokesman and to obtain a document in Hebrew that would identify us as journalists to Israeli soldiers on the front line, the Israeli captain - identified by gunmen of the "South Lebanon Army" militia as the base only as "Captain Albert" - photographed our press credentials and said: "You are ordered to return to Beirut immediately. These are military orders."

When we pointed out that the Israelis had permitted us to cross their front lines at the Bate Bridge two days earlier, the captain, who wore Israeli

army uniform with a red yarmulka fringed with gold on his head, replied: "I do not know about this. But you do not have a permit to be here."

When I told him that we all held valid press credentials and were legally working in Lebanon, he said: "I am sorry but you do not have a permit to go to Israel? Well, you need a permit to come here."

In previous weeks, journalists in Beirut have generally although not always - sought passes in Hebrew to cross Israeli

lines into southern Lebanon from the Israeli Government's liaison office north of Beirut. Since this office was closed on the orders of Mr Rashid Karami, the Lebanese Prime Minister, and with the support of Mr Nabih Berri, the Justice Minister and leader of the Shia Muslim "Amal" militia, such passes cannot be obtained.

When Mr Wilson asked "Captain Albert" how the permit he was requesting could be obtained in Beirut now, the officer replied: "I don't know. Get one in Europe. Get one in London. Go abroad and get one. Ask Rashid Karami for a permit. Ask Mr Berri." He then laughed.

An English-speaking man in a

tee-shirt who said that he was neither an Israeli nor a Lebanese but who acted as interpreter for "Captain Albert" - who spoke only Hebrew and French - repeatedly asked how long we had been in southern Lebanon and how we had managed to "drive" our car through the Israeli lines.

In fact, Israeli officers allowed us to cross their lines at the Bate Bridge near Jezzeine and we had already travelled widely through Israel's occupation area, both on the Mediterranean coast and in the lower Bekaa Valley.

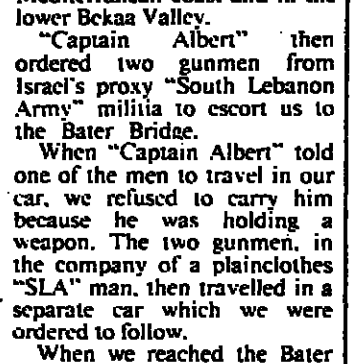
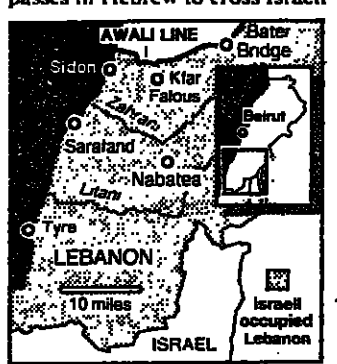
"Captain Albert" then ordered two gunmen from Israel's proxy "South Lebanon Army" militia to escort us to the Bate Bridge.

When "Captain Albert" told one of the men to travel in our car, we refused to carry him because he was holding a weapon. The two gunmen, in the company of a plainclothes "SLA" man, then travelled in a separate car which we were ordered to follow.

When we reached the Bate Bridge, they argued with the Israeli soldiers there until the soldiers accepted a piece of paper written in Hebrew by "Captain Albert".

An Israeli soldier who identified himself as Josy Sinai told me that one of the "SLA" men wanted to tell me something. "He says go and don't come back to southern Lebanon," the soldier said. "I don't know why."

It appears that correspondents based in Israel may still be allowed to visit Israel's occupation zone occasionally, but only in company with an Israeli army officer. This effectively prevents a correspondent from talking freely to local Lebanese or travelling freely



Queen and Duke start off on postponed tour of Canada

By Alan Hamilton

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will leave London today to begin their two-week official visit to Canada, postponed from July because of the Canadian snap general election which put Mr Brian Mulroney's Progressive Conservative Party into power.

The royal couple will fly direct to Moncton, New Brunswick, to take part in two days of celebrations marking the bicentenary of the founding of the province by loyalists who emigrated north after the American Revolution. They will fly on to Ottawa for a formal meeting with Mr Mulroney and his new cabinet before joining the royal yacht *Britannia* at the port of Morrisburg near by on the St Lawrence Seaway.

Sailing into the Great Lakes on a nine-day cruise, the Queen and the Duke will attend functions celebrating the concurrent bicentenary of the founding of the province of Ontario, culminating in a visit to Toronto, which is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year.

The Queen will then fly on alone to Winnipeg for a two-day visit to Manitoba, a province

which has not received the monarch since 1971. As before, no invitation has been forthcoming for the Queen to visit the predominantly French province of Quebec, where the separatist movement is still strong, and where the monarch has not set foot since she attended the Olympic Games in Montreal in 1976.

Buckingham Palace tries to ensure that Canada receives a royal visit at least once a year. The Queen was last in Ottawa in 1982 for the repatriation of the Canadian Constitution, which effectively cut the country's last remaining colonial ties with Britain. The Queen will be an indication of how much Canadians wish to retain their one remaining bond of a common monarchy.

The Queen visited British Columbia last year at the end of her United States tour, and the Prince and Princess of Wales paid a visit to the Maritime Provinces in the east last year. The Duke of Edinburgh will not be taking part in the visit to Manitoba; he is going to Egypt for a meeting of the International Equestrian Federation.

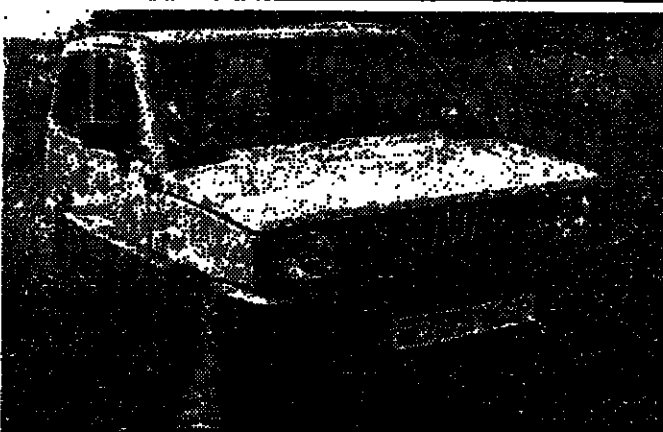
Mr John Turner, the defeated Liberal Prime Minister, visited Windsor in July and asked for a postponement of the royal visit.

The revised dates were chosen at least partly because they fitted in with the Queen's long-standing engagement to make a private visit to the United States.

In March she accepted an invitation from Lady Porchester, the American-born wife of her racing manager, to make a purely personal visit to study her abiding passion, bloodstock, in Kentucky and Wyoming, and she will join Lady Porchester direct from Winnipeg.

October was chosen because it is regarded as the ideal period in the horse-breeding season. Some of her own mares will be at Lexington, Kentucky to be covered by American stallions.

When she accepted the invitation the Queen made it clear that she would undertake no official engagements, because President Reagan's own election campaign will be at an advanced stage. There are no plans for her to meet the President.



The Fiat Panda 4x4: Challenge to the Japanese

4-wheel drive at £4,390

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

A new Fiat car claimed to be the smallest and cheapest four-wheel drive saloon in Britain goes on sale today. The Panda 4x4 costs £4,390, and undercuts its nearest rivals by more than £300.

Fiat joined forces with the Austrian cross-country experts, Steyr-Daimler-Puch, to develop the four-wheel drive system, the first to be fitted to a car with the engine mounted transversely. It can be engaged on the move at speeds up to 37 mph.

Cheap four-wheel drive vehicles are much in demand as the long waiting list for cars

such as the Suzuki SJ 410 demonstrates. Suzuki imports limited by the 11 per cent ceiling on Japanese car imports.

Flat, on the other hand, has unrestricted access to EEC countries, and is clearly attempting to cash in on the Japanese inability to meet the demand they have created.

The 956cc engine is a more powerful version of the one used in the Panda Comfort and Super models. The ability to revert to two-wheel drive gives it a top speed of 84 mph, and enables it to achieve better fuel consumption than almost all its rivals.

Muslim girls get their own school

Bradford's first private school for Muslim girls was officially opened on Saturday. The school, which has been converted from a former government office at a cost of more than £100,000, has 50 pupils aged 12 and over. The number is expected to rise to 100 by the end of the school year.

The school has been set up by the Muslim Association of Bradford because co-education is not acceptable to Muslim parents and because of difficulties experienced by Muslim girls taking physical education and swimming at local schools.

A year ago Bradford council refused to back a plan by a rival Muslim group for five aided-denominational schools in the city.

Benefits blamed for splitting families

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

The present pattern of benefits for young people is encouraging youngsters to leave school at 16 and forcing families to turn their teenage children out of home, the National Association of Citizens' Advice Bureaux said yesterday.

In a submission to the Government's review of benefits for children and young people, now being chaired by Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, the association argues that benefit levels are threatening family stability.

For young people aged between 16 and 20, benefit can vary from nothing to £26.80 a week plus housing benefit for someone with a Youth Training Scheme place or a part-time course not living at home.

For someone aged between 16 and 19 still at school, the family receives £6.50 a week child benefit. But if the young person leaves full-time education he or she can receive £16.50 a week supplementary benefit while aged between 16 and 17, and £21.45 when aged between 18 and 20.

If the teenager leaves home but stays in a full-time course,

benefit of £26.80 plus housing benefit can be paid.

The effect, the association says, is that young people from poorer families often leave school in order to be less of a financial burden to their families, while the extra income from Youth Training Scheme payments or even from benefit are a strong disincentive to stay on in education.

There have been cases of 16-year-olds and 17-year-olds from families with low incomes moving into lodgings without proper supervision while continuing in full-time education to get higher benefits, the association says, and add: "It is disturbing that such financial pressure is threatening family stability and forcing many young people to abandon their education."

There is a conflict, the association says, between the state's desire to encourage young people to take paid employment, and its desire for them to stay in education beyond 16, which needs to be resolved. One possibility is to provide a benefit or allowance to those staying in education,



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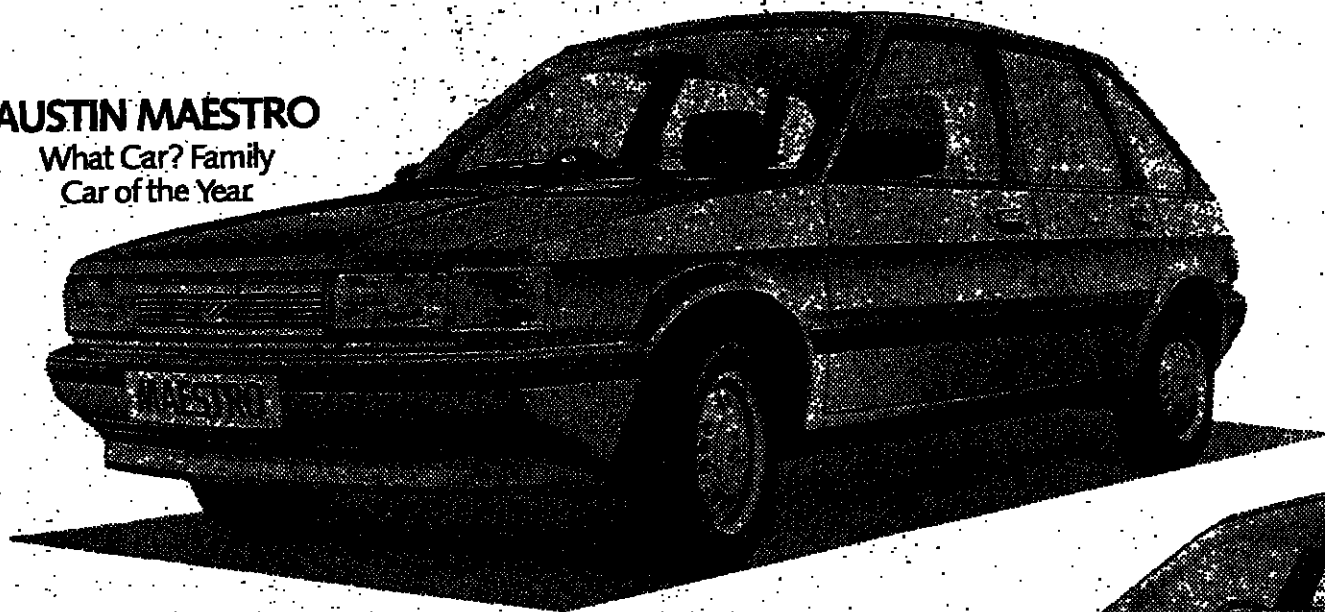
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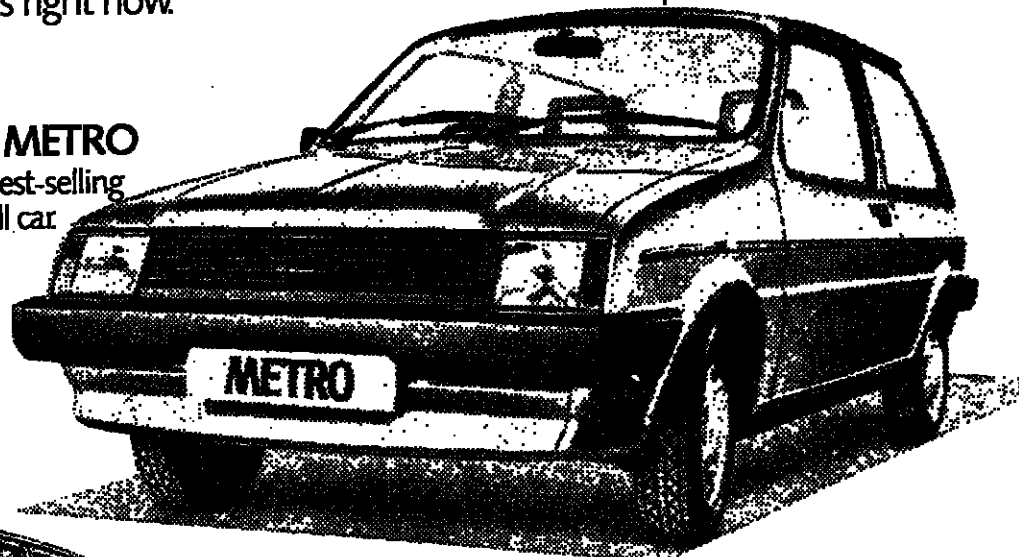
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FROM
AUSTIN ROVER

Sandinista agreement to Contadora proposals rejected by Washington

From Alan Tomlinson, Managua

The Sandinista Government in Nicaragua has announced its readiness to sign the Contadora peace treaty in its latest draft form, without further delay or modifications. It has also called on the United States to demonstrate its support for peace in Central America by signing a ratification of the treaty.

The US State Department dismissed the announcement as "hypocritical" because, it said, the Sandinistas were not committed to free elections as proposed by the Contadora group of Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela and Panama.

A Washington spokesman pointed to ugly incidents over the past few days when armed, pro-Sandinista mobs besieged meetings held around the country by leaders of right-wing political parties which are boycotting the elections because they find them unfair.

In one incident in the town of Leon, the leader of the right-wing coalition, Señor Arturo Cruz, was attacked. In the town of Boaco, his car was stoned and on Saturday in Masaya a small group of coalition leaders and supporters was besieged for two hours by a mob of more

than a thousand mainly young Government supporters brandishing sticks, chains and machetes and screaming for Señor Cruz to get out of town.

Police kept the mob at bay beyond the garden fence of the private house in which Señor Cruz was speaking before evacuating his followers in a covered Army lorry. As Señor Cruz left in a car after things had calmed down a stone shattered the side window where he was sitting, but he was not hurt.

He said the mob had largely been brought into Masaya from elsewhere in an organized effort by the Government to intimidate him into silence. His three-party coalition, known as the Democratic Coordinating Committee, has lost its legal status and the right to hold public rallies as a consequence of its abstention from the elections. But it is allowed under the law to hold private meetings behind closed doors.

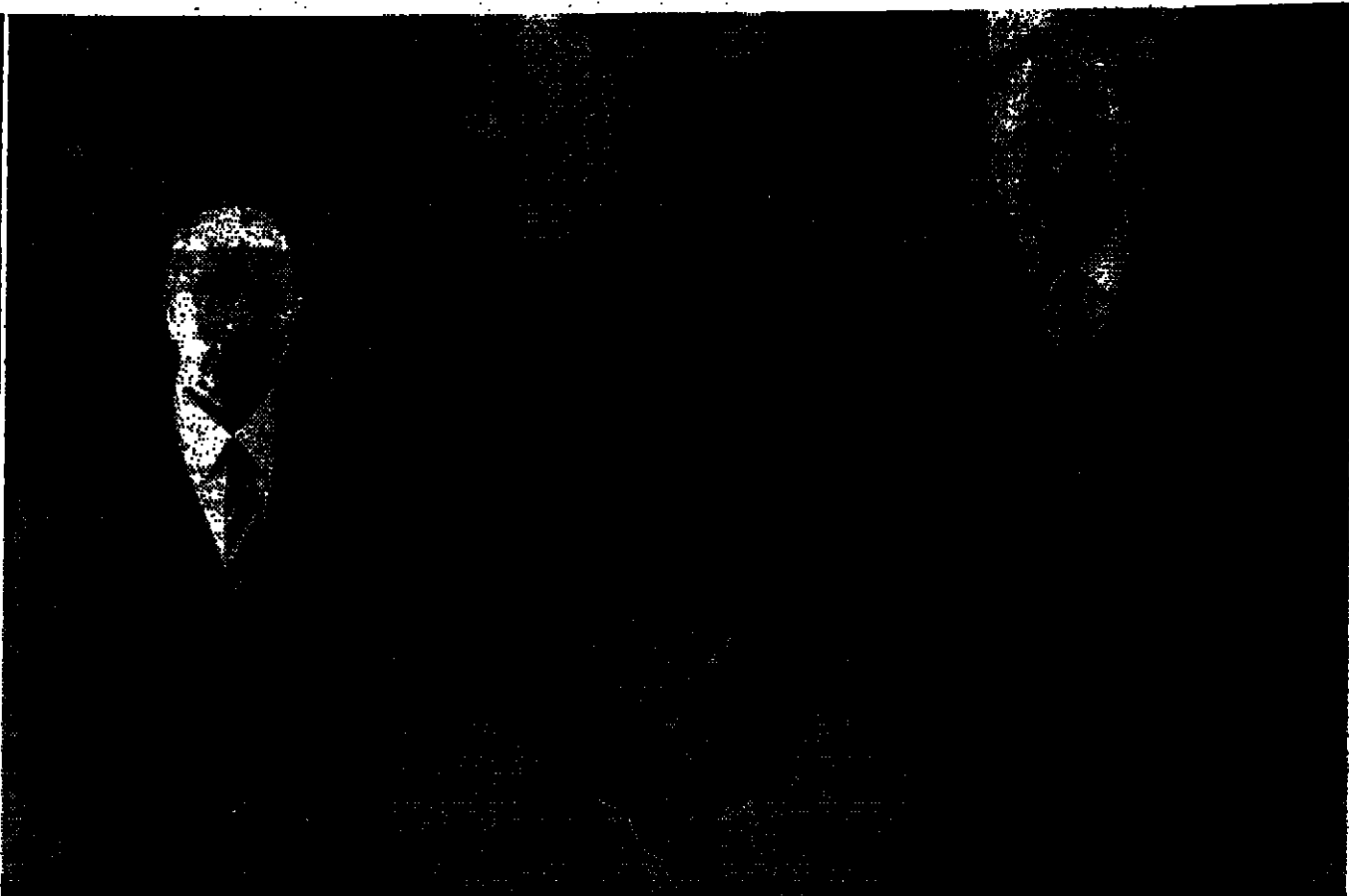
Onlookers and members of the mob interviewed at random said they were from the town and police captain Luis Rodríguez, in charge of protecting Señor Cruz, commented: "Why do we need to bring people in

when we have 120,000 Sandinistas in Masaya?" Throughout the demonstration police kept control but made no arrests.

Six centre and left-wing parties which are participating in the elections have met to discuss whether intimidation by Sandinista supporters is preventing them from conducting effective campaigns. The two main opposition parties in the race, the Independent Liberals and the Democratic Conservatives, will decide at their forthcoming conventions whether to continue campaigning or pull out.

The Government has rejected a request by the Cruz coalition to postpone the elections for a month or two to allow time for a national dialogue which might permit the right to run. President Belisario Betancur of Colombia is understood to have acted as an intermediary in behind-the-scenes talks.

The Sandinistas said they were prepared to reopen the registration of candidates for President and a legislative assembly to enable the coalition belatedly to take part, but not to alter the polling date set for November 4.



Forgetting the past at Verdun battlefield

In a gesture of reconciliation, President Mitterrand, left, and Chancellor Helmut Kohl hold hands as the French and West German national anthems are played at Verdun, a scene of one of the most bitter battles of the First World War.

Before visiting the graves of French

soldiers, Mitterrand and Herr Kohl paid tribute to the German dead at Consenvoye, one of the many German cemeteries in the area.

The French President invited Herr Kohl to Verdun last May to soothe West German resentment at being excluded from the June 6 ceremonies

marking the anniversary of D-Day.

Mitterrand, a soldier in the French Army, was captured by the Germans in 1940 near Verdun. Herr Kohl's father fought there in 1916 and during the ceremonies on Saturday the two leaders visited the part of the battlefield where he fought.

China ready to celebrate Hongkong signing

From David Bonavia, Peking

The initialing of the Anglo-Chinese agreement on the future of Hongkong will take place on Wednesday amid preparation for the most exuberant national festival held in China in the past two decades.

Flourishes, troops, tanks, missiles, aircraft, dancing children and bands of the national flag are being made ready for the 35th anniversary of the Communist victory and the debut of the new Chinese New Year's national anthem.

However, the party and Government have told provinces and cities outside Peking not to waste money on festive celebrations.

The initialing of the Hongkong agreement by Sir Richard Evans, the British ambassador, and his Chinese negotiating counterpart Mr Zhou Yan, will take place in the Great Hall of the People on September 26.

The ceremony, it is understood, will be brief and formal. After the initialing, the agreement will be submitted to the British parliament and the Chinese National People's Congress for ratification. No changes can be made in the text already agreed, without parliamentary rejection of the entire treaty.

Throughout the negotiations, the people of Hongkong have been ignorant of the details of the discussions, and have given little opportunity to voice their views on it because of the secrecy imposed on the talks at the insistence of Mrs Thatcher.

Three important and especially difficult topics, civil aviation, citizenship and land, are understood to have been agreed only in outline, with more detailed discussions to follow ratification of the treaty. It will abrogate the two nineteenth century treaties ceding Hongkong and Kowloon to Britain, and will return sovereignty over the territory to China on the date of termination of the lease on the New Territories in 1997.

● LONDON: The text of the agreement will be published at noon, London time, on Wednesday and Sir Geoffrey Howe will hold a press conference two and a half hours later in New York where he is attending the UN General Assembly (Henry Stanhope writes).

Whitehall officials are already jubilant about the agreement which they say is an even better deal than the most optimistic observers had hoped for.

Sir Lanka's political deadlock

Angry Tamils see little prospect in talks

From Michael Hamlyn, Jaffna

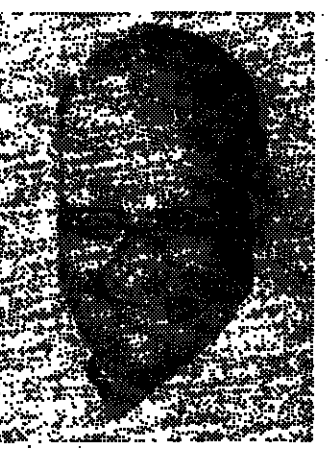
The anger, frustration and fear of Sri Lanka's minority Tamil community have not been allayed by proposals emanating from the round table talks in Colombo at the weekend.

Politicians from the Tamil United Liberation Front are disappointed by the proposals as presented, and are deeply mistrustful of how they may be developed by the Sinhalese politicians.

Here in the north the inhabitants live in terror and resentment of the barbaric behaviour of the security forces charged with putting down the rebellion of armed Tamil militants.

Mr R. Balasubramaniam, secretary of the Jaffna Citizens' Committee, complained: "They are already treating us as though we were citizens of another country."

"The armed forces have



Mr Amirthalingam talks "an exercise in futility"

become so indisciplined and are so full of hate for the Tamil people that, with the increasingly deadly weapons in their hands, they have become purveyors of death and destruction

to unoffending Tamil people", says a letter sent by the liberation front to President J. R. Jayawardene last week.

Mr Appapillai Amirthalingam, the front's general secretary, yesterday appeared to be profoundly gloomy about the likely outcome of the round table talks. He spoke of the futility of continuing to talk with the Government and wondered whether armed conflict was not the only way to continue the Tamil struggle.

"I think", he said, "ultimately we will have to fight it out." He added that the young militants were constantly telling him and his fellow-politicians to cease contact with the all-party talks.

The proposals put forward from the talks follow the lines forecast in *The Times* in May, with the main unit of devolution being the district council, but with the main unit of devolution being the district council, but

with the possibility of some regional cooperation through what are at present called "inter-district coordinating units". The proposal has clearly been laboriously put together to go some way to answering the Tamil desire for regional devolution, without upsetting the Sinhalese abhorrence of anything resembling federalism.

Added to that is a suggestion for a second chamber of Parliament which would be charged with looking after minority interests. The liberation front is especially dismissive of the second chamber which it regards as an instrument of centralization, and not of devolution, since it will place greater power in the President's hands.

Mr Amirthalingam said: "It will not have a majority of minority members. It will have a majority of Sinhala members. It will be a repetition of the first chamber."

Lange rides high in New Zealand opinion with pragmatic style

From W F Reeves, Wellington

Mr David Lange, the New Zealand Prime Minister, who will be in London later this week after meetings in New York, enjoys a higher personal standing at home now than when his Labour administration was elected 10 weeks ago.

At 41, and without Cabinet experience, he was something of an unknown quantity, and viewed by the right with traditional suspicion. Now, according to the latest national opinion poll, he enjoys a 70 per cent approval rating.

That has as much to do with style as with policy. Under the impact of his call for consensus and consultation, the mood of the country has undergone a remarkable transformation. There is a sense of relief at what is being interpreted as the end of the Muldoon era.

Contrasting with the combative approach and interventionist methods of Sir Robert Muldoon, the former Prime Minister, Mr Lange has struck

responsive chords in promising an end to divisive policies.

The Government's specific economic policies will remain under wraps until a delayed budget is presented on November 8. However, in devaluing the New Zealand dollar 20 per cent and decontrolling interest rates in its first days in office the Government showed enough orthodoxy to please banking, business and influential circles.

Mr Lange also scored by summoning sector leaders together this month for an exercise in consensus making. The summit, approved highly by the Government, Union leaders publicly pledged wage restraint and the country's most prominent industrialists spoke of consultation and pulling together and of an obligation to look after the least advantaged in society.

How long the sweet temper will last cannot be judged. The tolerance of Mr Lange's left wing may be short lived. His Cabinet colleagues generally share his moderate persuasions but elements within the caucus and party are critical of the reliance they claim the Government places in market forces to regulate the economy and achieve a redistribution of incomes.

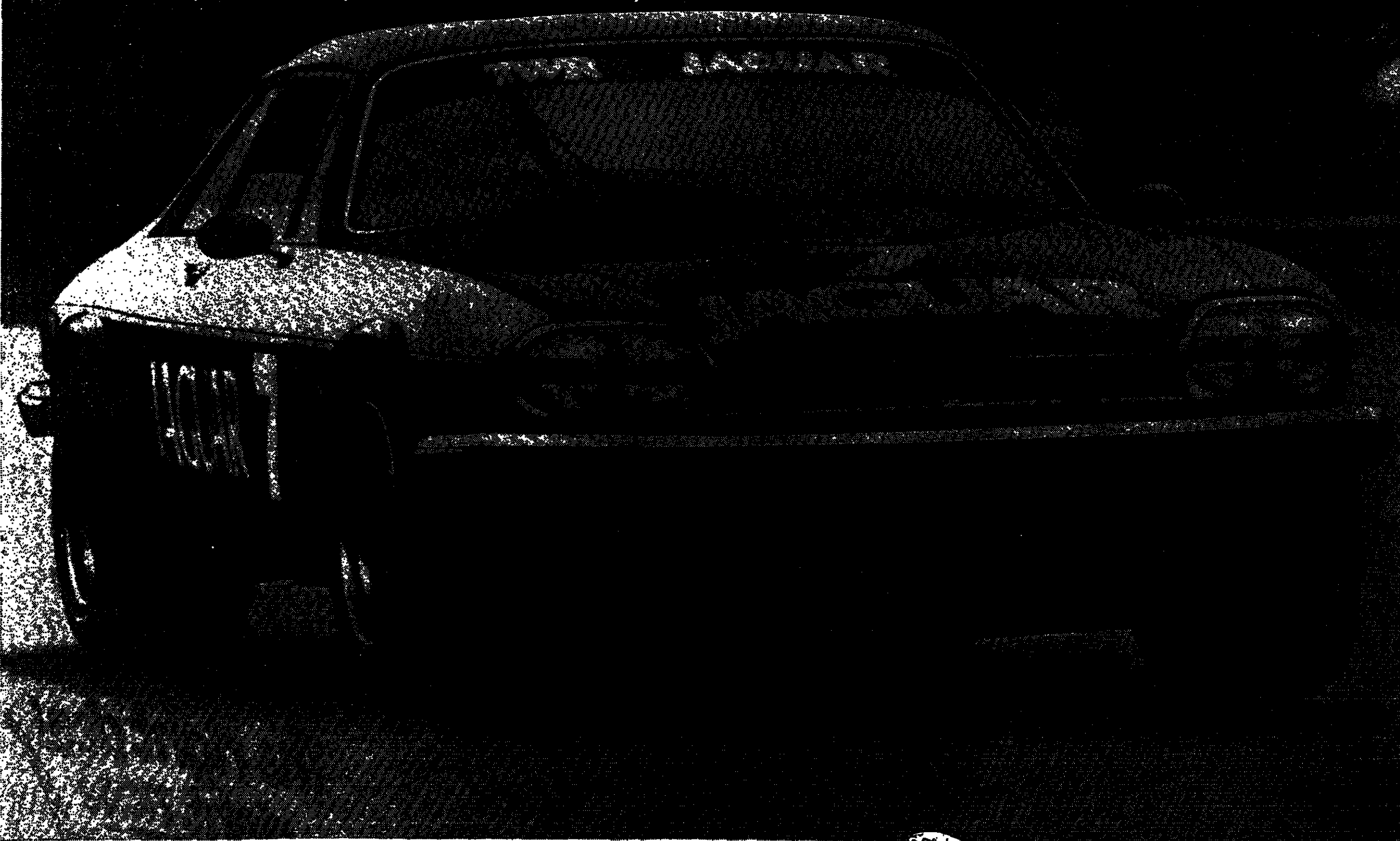
Meanwhile Mr Lange's anti-nuclear stance is subjecting relations with the United States to unprecedented strain and has not endeared him to his fellow Labour Prime Minister, Mr Bob Hawke, in Australia. Mr Lange will be attempting some repair with Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, this week.

His task will not have been made easier by the remarks of Mr Frank O'Flynn, the Defence Minister, last week that New Zealand should not involve itself with regional or global defence pacts and no longer needed to see the enemies of the United States and Britain as its own.

Whitehall officials are already jubilant about the agreement which they say is an even better deal than the most optimistic observers had hoped for.

JAGUAR WINS E.T.C. DRIVER'S CHAMPIONSHIP

TOM WALKINSHAW IN JAGUAR XJ-S TAKES COVETED EUROPEAN DRIVER'S CHAMPIONSHIP AT ZOLDER, BELGIUM, 23RD SEPTEMBER, 1984.



*Subject to official confirmation.

JAGUAR The legend grows
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Dynasty fears in Singapore as Lee's son enters politics

By David Watts

The Singapore Prime Minister's son, Mr Lee Hsien Loong, is to contest forthcoming elections, and thereby becomes the first Singapore military man to move into politics.

The announcement of Singapore's worst-kept secret came at the weekend, just two days after Mr Lee had retired with a tough farewell speech from the Army's third most senior position, as a brigadier-general.

That speech was the latest of a series of public pronouncements that began early this year as part of Mr Lee's attempts to establish himself with the public as his own man, with a tough, cool approach to problems.

Although his army career, in which he was responsible for planning and intelligence coordination, was out of the public eye his handling of the Singapore cable-car disaster early last year made him a public figure. He planned and commanded three rescues on the spot. It involved plucking survivors by helicopter from the cable-car in high winds and darkness.

Mr Lee, aged 32, will contest a new constituency which has been established by halving a large one. He is part of a final group of 24 new candidates for the ruling People's Action Party (PAP) who have been introduced periodically during the year for elections which are expected in December.

He went through the same election process as his fellow political novices, all in their early thirties, and like them he must face an increasingly youthful and sceptical Singapore electorate.

The opposition accuses Mr Lee Kuan Yew, the Prime Minister, of trying to start a

political dynasty, paving the way for a Singapore run by Lee and Lee. Those accusations spring not least from Mr Lee senior's proposal in his National Day Speech that Singapore should now have a popularly-elected President. The constitution will be amended at the next sitting of Parliament.

Under the new system the President should be a former minister, he said, who understood how the Government was run and budgets were formulated. That was necessary because the country must have a safeguard against a future coalition Government wasting the nation's foreign reserves.

The reserves now stand at \$9.3bn (£7.5bn). The President would act in concert with a special committee to protect them, blocking their use by the Government of the day.

Opposition critics say that scenario would open the way to a Singapore in the 1990s with the younger Lee as Prime Minister and his father as President. But many in the PAP and the business community believe such a development could be the best guarantee of Singapore's future success.

The Singapore press has made much of the pressure put on Mr Lee Kuan Yew by Mr Sinnathamby Rajaratnam, First Deputy Prime Minister and co-founder of the PAP, to get his son out of the Army and into politics.

Mr Lee junior has many of his father's qualities. He is said to have been able to speak several languages fluently at the age of 14 including Russian, and to be an accomplished nuclear physicist.



Lollipop man: Traffic control at Exercise Lionheart by a West German soldier in a "nuclear, bacteriological, chemical" protective suit.

Friendly jets 'downed' as Nato flaw surfaces

From Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent, Hildesheim

One of Nato's most acute problems, ensuring air defences do not shoot down friendly aircraft, has been highlighted by Exercise Lionheart, being played out here in north Germany.

There has been at least one instance already in which missile batteries have simulated an attack on two RAF Harrier aircraft. In a real war it is highly likely they would have shot them down.

Nato's existing IFF (identification friend or foe) system is not well protected against jamming or other forms of enemy interference. For at least a decade Nato has been searching for a standard modern system, but has yet to agree on one.

Despite such incidents, the series of air exercises extending from Denmark to Turkey have demonstrated the effectiveness of the Harrier. British sources said that on one day, although Harriers constituted about a third of the fixed-wing aircraft directly supporting the British Corps, they accounted for about two thirds of the sorties.

That is partly explained by the Harrier's ability to operate off very short, improvised runways.

Over the weekend the ground forces regrouped for the final phase of the exercise, which begins today with the British "blue" forces moving from the defensive to attack the opposing "orange" forces.

Sweet money leaves sour aftertaste

In the first of two articles, Douglas Tweedale reports from Buenos Aires on how Argentina borrowed billions of dollars under the military government but has nothing but headaches to show for it today.

Although Señor José Alfredo Martínez de Hoz has never been in the military, he may well be the most unpopular man in Argentina today. Even more than the despised generals who ruled by force after the 1976 coup, the former Economy Minister is - rightly or wrongly - held personally responsible for the unpayable \$45 billion (£34.6 billion) foreign debt that hangs like Damocles' sword over President Raúl Alfonsín's Government.

have come due. Argentines look back bitterly on those years and blame it all on Señor Martínez de Hoz and the military government he served.

His detractors say he carried out a deliberate plan to fuel speculation and destroy domestic industry on behalf of his "imperialist masters" in the multinationals.

Whatever the truth, the bitterness is understandable, for Argentina has virtually nothing solid to show for all the money it borrowed. In the years when Señor Martínez de Hoz was Economy Minister - from 1976 to 1981 - the country's total debt soared from a reasonable \$8.2 billion to an unmanageable \$35.7 billion.

But unlike Brazil or Mexico, there are no visible signs that this debt was put to productive use. Many of the grandiose public works projects undertaken by the military government are either unfinished, operating at a deficit, under suspicion of corruption, or a combination of the three.

Millions were invested in

that the true cost was closer to \$100m and that the difference simply "evaporated" in shady deals.

Vacimientos Petroliferos Fiscales (YPF), the state oil company, borrowed more than \$100m for purposes which have never been adequately explained, yet it was virtually bankrupt, with its drilling capacity greatly reduced, when the Alfonsín administration took over.

The statistics also show that the borrowed billions did not go towards promoting industry. According to the current president of the Central Bank, while the size of the overall debt grew from \$12.5 billion in 1978 to \$43.6 billion in 1982, Argentina was suffering one of its most severe recessions in

Latin American debt 17

history. In the same period, gross domestic product (GNP) fell by 6.8 per cent and industrial production plummeted by 24.1 per cent.

Two public spending projects which could account for a large part of the debt were closely guarded secrets under the military: arms purchases, which are known to have been substantial, and the controversial nuclear energy programme. There are no reliable figures as to how much was spent on these.

Where did all the money go? Officials of the Alfonsín administration and private economists do not know for certain, but most opinions point in one direction: widespread financial speculation prompted by an overvalued peso and the resulting capital flight indirectly subsidised by the Government.

Tomorrow: cheap dollars and "the bicycle".

Military regime's wasted billions

Sweet money leaves sour aftertaste

DEBT TABLE (in billions of US\$)			
Year	Total debt	Private debt	Public debt
1975	7.37	3.35	4.02
1976	8.25	3.09	5.19
1977	9.57	3.63	5.94
1978	12.50	4.14	8.36
1979	18.03	9.07	9.96
1980	27.16	12.70	14.46
1981	35.67	15.65	20.02
1982	43.63	14.36	29.24

(Total includes \$2.93bn in overdue payments from 1981)

have come due. Argentines look back bitterly on those years and blame it all on Señor Martínez de Hoz and the military government he served.

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But unlike Brazil or Mexico, there are no visible signs that this debt was put to productive use. Many of the grandiose public works projects undertaken by the military government are either unfinished, operating at a deficit, under suspicion of corruption, or a combination of the three.

Millions were invested in



Señor Martínez de Hoz: Butt of cartoonists.

huge joint hydroelectric projects with Paraguay. The construction of the Yacretá Dam on the Paraguayan border, for example, has not even begun yet. Its cost is already suspiciously spiralling and work is years behind schedule.

A motorway was built by the city of Buenos Aires at a cost of some \$300m, much of it borrowed from abroad. But recent investigations suggest

Kasparov fails to secure win

Moscow (Reuters) - The fourth game of the world chess championship between the reigning champion, Anatoly Karpov, and Gary Kasparov, the challenger, ended in a draw on the forty-fifth move on Saturday.

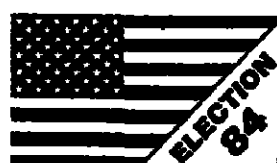
Karpov is leading 1-0 in the series because of a win in the third game. With draws not counted, the match will continue until the first player wins six games. Kasparov offered the draw after less than half an hour.

When play resumed the challenger immediately grasped his head in his hands in a show of concentration, while Karpov stood calmly around the stage with a look of slight impatience.

The only incident of the day was provided by the adjournment envelope, which took several minutes and great exertions to open.

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SPECTRUM



As the American election campaign gathers momentum Trevor Fishlock begins a

three-part report from the camp of Geraldine Ferraro who, despite a scandal-ridden start, is proving to be a popular, confident and astute running mate to Walter Mondale

The duchess from Queens

Geraldine Ferraro wakes at 4.30am in her suite in the Bel Coronado, a splendid Victorian pile of a hotel where, it is said, Mrs Simpson first met the Prince of Wales. It is dark here on the Pacific coast, but Congresswoman Ferraro is no lie-abed at the laziest of times. She is, in any case, still on Atlantic time, three hours ahead, having left home in New York only yesterday and saying another farewell to her husband John Zaccaro.

She calls Eleanor Lewis, confidante and chief assistant and they go to the beach to watch the sunrise, shadowed by the secret service — those neatly-dressed pistol-packers who, as if rubbing their noses or sniffing snuff, whisper into cuff microphones as they track the movements of the woman codenamed Duster.

She and Walter Mondale are now into round two, the battle joined in greater earnest after the easier days of summer. Large crowds turn out for the history-making woman and bring their children to see her. Fathers hoist daughters to their shoulders. A reporter remarks: "My editor said to stick with her full-time, she's the best story of the campaign. Everything that woman does is history."

The financial disclosure storm was damaging, but many of her supporters think it was also a trial by ordeal she handled well. While some commentators sketched her political obituary, Ferraro showed she had what Londoners call bottle and what Americans call moxie — a certain courage, a refusal to be intimidated. She is, after all, a professional, confident and smart.

As a girl she was an American "princess", a doted-on daughter who knew what she wanted. Appointed an Assistant District Attorney by her cousin Nicholas Ferraro, the District Attorney and local politician, she made a reputation as a tough prosecutor in her home territory of Queens, New York.

Ferraro says she kept her maiden name for reasons of identity and as a tribute to her mother. When she sought office it seemed to have a more suitable ring than Zaccaro. As an ambitious and shrewd congresswoman, she made her way in a daunting, wheel-and-deal male world; a liberal, but with the strong conservative strain you would expect in a representative of conservative blue collar and middle-class Queens. House Speaker Tip O'Neill, with whom she forged a strong link, has said: "Some might say she's a pushy broad, but you have to be strong to succeed."

Ms Ferraro back from the beach reads the briefing book prepared by her staff. It sets out the campaigning ahead, views the

local political landscape, assesses the previous day's campaign, notes her rivals' speeches and suggests emphasis in her own.

She puts on a red polka-dot dress. Her clothing is earnestly discussed by newspaper fashion writers: "Does Ferraro dress for power? Can she be taken seriously in frills?" and other nonsense. She brushes her famous, obedient, businesswoman's thatch (her hairdresser has been heavily interviewed), puts on gold earrings and smudges shadow under her brilliant green eyes. She has a face the camera loves. Photographers say it's a marvellous, rewarding face.

Her staff troop in at seven for the breakfast meeting. Of the main figures in her court, she knows only Eleanor Lewis really well. The others are mostly Mondale campaign people, hived-off to run the Ferraro show and, not surprisingly, because of the late-in-the-day team selection, the gears have not always meshed. Of course, there are tensions in any campaign team, with a lot of egos and adrenalin bubbling. It is like being backstage at an opera.

The Mondale and Ferraro campaigns, although nominally separate, are two sides of the same coin. They share offices in Washington and consult frequently to avoid crossed wires. Ms Ferraro was briefed intensively on Mr Mondale's views to avoid left-hand, right-hand trouble.

She is a good listener, receptive to advice. But there is no doubt that she is in charge. She is used to getting her way, a bit of a duchess, but breezy with it.

The people in her room are a slightly rumpled crew in their mid-to-late thirties, a mixture of old and new campaign hands, political junkies, academics, lawyers: John Sasso, campaign manager; Charles Atkins, his deputy; Steven Engleberg, issues director; Fred Martin, speechwriter; Barbara Mason, senior policy adviser; Madeleine Albright, foreign policy adviser; and Francis O'Brien, press spokesman.

Mr Sasso, 36, chief of staff to the Governor of Massachusetts, did not know Ferraro before she became running-mate. Francis O'Brien, who looks Woody Allenish and wears a green leather tie, is a film producer and ex-Mondale staffer, recruited to the press job after the previous spokesman left in the financial furore, the candidate's and the team's deep end.

After the meeting, Ms Ferraro talks by telephone to Mr Mondale and rounds off the first part of the morning with three radio interviews from her room. At 8am, button-bright, and in a let's-get-on-with-it mood, she is off in a motorcade, in a car thoroughly searched by agents. The



Vote-catcher: Geraldine Ferraro hammers home her ideas at a New York press conference

procession is a Californian pageant: a stream of cars and buses containing candidate, aides, devoted footsloggers, bodyguards, television crews and reporters hurrying along freeways, preceded and followed by large motorcycle policemen.

A television crew rides on an estate car tailboard, to film everything and be on the spot should anything happen to the candidate. They get extra pay for their discomfort.

The motorcade rolls up to a factory for the first photo tableau of the day. Cameramen jostle like members of an oversubscribed firing squad. Mike-on-sticks jab the air and secret service men stare into the throng.

It is perfect: Ms Ferraro, among the lathes of working America, listening to a small-time industrialist deploring Reaganomics. Afterwards, she sits at a table for a talk with managers and workers. Watching this, policy adviser Barbara Mason says: "She's good when she's close to people. They can cross-examine her all they like. We have no fear of putting her out front, answering questions". The Ferraro people contrast the way President Reagan is insulated from press and people.

Donna and Laura Ferraro, the candidate's daughters, aged 22 and 18, watch the filming. Everyone likes them; they are delightful, sunny girls and they look good on the platform when mother speaks. They and brother John, aged 21, are campaigning for their mother. Laura and John have taken time from their education and Donna has taken two months off from the Wall Street company where she works. "I couldn't sit still. I had to help out."

The Ferraroade heads for San Diego airport and the campaign's chartered Boeing 727 for a two-hour flight to Oregon.

The 125 seats are cramped and knee-numbing. The 12 secret service agents take off their jackets revealing braces, as well as belts, to support their holsters and radios.

Ms Ferraro talks to her aides. Laura Ferraro dons Sony Walkman earphones. There is a sudden canteen smell as scores of egg McMuffins, breakfast in a bun, are released to the reporters, whose fares are first class plus 50 per cent. A sack of bananas is opened, too. A secret service man puts a banana in his holster for a lark.

In Eugene, Oregon, we see a remarkable example of Geraldine Ferraro's impact, a touch of charisma. The town square is packed with an enthusiastic multi-racial crowd — not an engineered one — holding placards saying "Drop Ron, not bombs", "Geraldine, the working woman's heroine" and "Men for Ferraro". Men shout out "Gerry we love ya".

She swipes at Mr Reagan's policies and for interfering in religion, cheer-leading stoutly for Mr Mondale, and winning loud applause when she hits at the Republicans' "self-conscious Madison Avenue patriotism." She goes down well, although she could be a better speaker. Her New York delivery is too rapid and, like Mr Mondale, she swallows words at the ends of sentences, pulling the punches.

She walks through the crowd and people surge forward to shake hands, making the agents nervous. They have told her not to go too close. Still, Mrs Ferraro and the people love it. "Isn't she lovely?" they say.

Now there's a press conference in a nearby hotel. Geraldine Ferraro stands alone, easily and confidently, no notes, no lectern. (She once said, in an English-

murdering phrase: "I am not into coy").

She is asked how she can attack the Republicans as the party of the rich, when she and her husband are worth \$3.8m? What is unfair, she says, turning the question, is that under Reagan, people like her are given too generous a tax break, while poorer people suffer. Then she evoked her humble origins. She is the daughter of an Italian immigrant, her widowed mother scrimped to school her, and she rose as lawyer and politician through hard work, true to the American Dream.

Francis O'Brien stage-whispers the command "bye" to her and she obediently ends the conference. Next stop, Spokane, Washington. A large crowd of supporters greets her. At the back there is a speckle of anti-abortion placards saying "Ferraro gives unborn babies the kiss of death" — the inevitable knocking she gets as a pro-choice Roman Catholic. The subject, like the finances, dogs her.

The hall is packed, with hundreds turned away. Ms Ferraro is a hit. People say "she's marvellous", her speech is loudly cheered. Her radiant daughters, sitting behind her, applaud as if they are hearing it for the first time. In the gallery above the stage a lugubrious agent cradles a submachine gun hidden in a bag.

At last, the Ferraros and entourage go off to dinner. Everyone is happy about the Ferraro-effect today. The crowds clearly warmed to her. Duster has omph.

As they pick up their room keys, the Ferraro party and journalists receive coupons for a free drink, a free roundabout ride at the park, a free biscuit at Mrs Greenthumb's coffee shop, and a reminder that there is another early call for Air Ferraro in the morning.

moreover... Miles Kington

Every morning I get a dozen or two leaked documents from the Ministry of Defence on my desk. Usually they are from Mr Heseltine, asking someone not to mention something to someone or other, so they go straight into the waste paper basket. But today I received something which made even me blink. I assume it is genuine. It certainly has the authentic ring.

Why I sank the Belgrano
by Margaret Thatcher

I want to get one thing terribly clear. The Belgrano had to go. It was a hopelessly uneconomic battleship and there was no alternative to closing it down at once. The Belgrano had been losing money for, oh goodness knows how many years, and if I have said it once I have said it 1,000 times: we simply cannot go on pouring good money after bad, and the same goes for the Argentine Navy.

There is no secret about the facts. The Belgrano was a huge, unmodern kind of ship.

It needed more than 1,000 men to run it. Many of them belonged to different trade unions, all hopelessly disagreeing about wage structures.

When ships like this are kept going, it is simply out of irrational attachment to past traditions. But my goodness, Sir Robin, we were elected into office in order to cut our ties to the old inefficient past!

We had a clear mandate to close down the Belgrano. No, not to sink it.

"Sink" is an emotive word. It is true that the Belgrano proved insuperable before we could privatise it, and in the process slipped to the ocean floor, where I may say it has caused absolutely no trouble at all. But what we were doing was closing it down.

There has been a lot of argument about which direction the Belgrano was heading. Some say it was heading towards the Falklands, some say it was heading home and some even say that it had been heading back and forth for days. Well, goodness gracious me, a ship that goes backwards and forwards, not sure where it is heading, is what I call an unproductive ship.

No wonder we closed it down. It is also said that our redundancy scheme could have been more generous. But hundreds of Argentine sailors took immediate retirement for war, and the rest have all been redeployed in other parts of the Argentine economy. What is ungenerous about that?

You know, what annoys me most in all this is the suggestion that we have something to hide. I have always said that if something cannot pay its way, it should be eliminated. There has never been any secret about this. That is why the Belgrano had to go.

That is why, Jimmy, I am so keen to get the mining industry making a profit. Not just the mines, but steel, docks, railways and everything. As soon as they start paying their way, we shall have the extra income we need to pay for the vast sums we are pouring into our programme to rebuild the Falkland Islands.

You know, sometimes people ask why it is that if the Falklands are making such a tremendous loss, I don't close them down at once — give them the Belgrano treatment, as it were.

Questions like this simply make me tremendously cross.

There's more to life than just profit and loss, you know. These communities in the Falkland Islands were people to whom we owed loyalty and support, beyond a mere matter of economics. Generations of them had worked in terrible conditions to evolve their own way of life, and we could not just stand by and see their livelihood collapse.

No, not like the miners. The miners are quite different. Goodness me, will nobody ever understand? The miners are exiles of England. They are trying to destroy all we stand for. They are Argentine in all but name.

That is why I have ordered out a Task Force to sink and destroy all unprofitable coal mines, under Admiral MacGregor.

Now, I want to hear something more about the Belgrano affair. I have just explained it. There is nothing more to be said.

FINDINGS

Not pig ignorant

Pigs on the whole get a rotten press. It is not their fault that they look the way they do and they are not nearly as smelly or dirty as many people think.

P. G. Wodehouse, at least, had the sense to make a pig the heroine of some of his greatest works, and George Orwell shrewdly concluded that, if animals ever managed to throw off the human yoke, it would be pigs that came out on top in the struggle for power.

The view that pigs are highly intelligent animals is supported by a recent study by the Institute of Animal Physiology, at Babraham, near Cambridge. In order to test animals' reactions to the noise, discomfort and stress of being transported to market, the institute developed a machine consisting of a pen, which could be tilted in all directions and generating a noise of 80 decibels.

Pigs quickly learnt to press a panel with their snouts to switch the machine off. They were particularly prompt to do so after a large meal or when the vibrations increased. After exposure to the machine, they also learnt to switch off a recording of the noise, even when there was no movement.

The worm returns

Pigs may be underrated, but one could hardly say the same about worms. Yet they decidedly have their uses, and not just as bait on the end of a fishing hook.

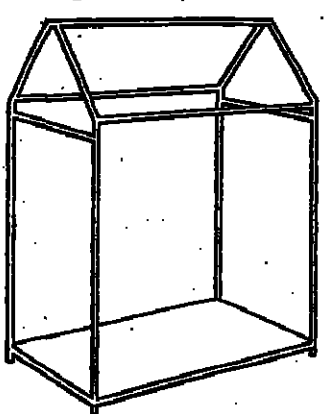
Dr Clive Edwards, of the entomology department at Rothamsted

station, has recently been given a one year grant by the Bowater group to develop ways of using earthworms to break down waste paper pulp solids and convert them into such useful materials as planting compost and peat substitute.

Dr Edwards has also been commissioned by the United States Army Corps of Engineers to study the potential of earthworms as test organisms in assessing whether mud dredged from canals and rivers is suitable for landfill.

Plastic greenhouse

For some amateur growers, over-ripe crops are not so much the problem as getting them to ripen at all. Mr Louis Vassent, of Seaford, Sussex, thinks he has the answer in the shape of a plastic greenhouse.



Warming up: the newest greenhouse, in plastic.

Among the advantages he claims for it over a conventional glasshouse, apart from being a lot cheaper, are that it keeps the earth warmer in winter, creates a sticky humid atmosphere on which plants thrive and is fitted with reversible slots for ventilation and to allow natural irrigation when it rains.

A Devon company, Q Garden, has also come up with an alternative to the conventional glasshouse, in the form of an

A series reporting on research: Agriculture

aluminium frame covered with flexible PVC. It is intended particularly for domestic grow-bags and provides protection not only from the elements but from dogs, cats, birds and children.

Useful effluent

The disposal of silage effluent has long been a problem for farmers because it is a dangerous water pollutant worse than animal slurry. If allowed to escape into lakes and rivers, it provides a nutritious food for bacteria, algae and fungi which use up the oxygen in the water at the expense of other forms of life.

Staff at the North of Scotland College of Agriculture, in Aberdeen, have concluded that the effluent will nourish other things besides algae and bacteria and that, instead of throwing it away, the best way to dispose of it is to feed it to cattle. The animals often prefer it to water, and 20 litres provide the energy equivalent of one kilogram of barley, as well as containing valuable ingredients like calcium, phosphorus and potassium.

Soft option

Not so long ago it was accepted that the soil in fields where crops were grown needed to be turned and aerated every year. Ploughing has become unfashionable, however, as farmers have burnt the straw and stubble, run a cultivator over the surface, and drilled the seed within a few days of harvesting. Now, it seems, ideas are changing again. At least one large farming group has said it intends to go back to ploughing this autumn, and the National Institute of Agricultural Engineering has warned farmers of



Ploughing: over-compacting causes damage.

the risk of excessive soil compaction by the tyres of heavy machinery.

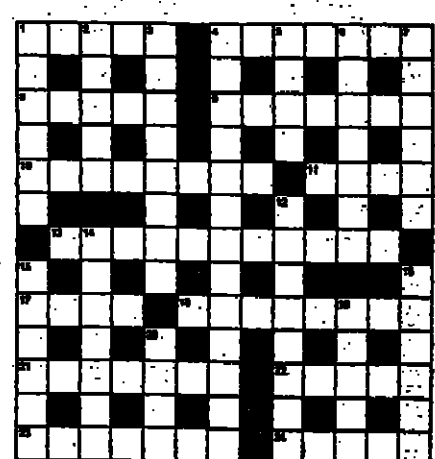
It might all seem obvious enough, but soil mechanics is a complex subject, and the reason of soil to various forms of implement has been studied surprisingly little. The modern mouldboard plough, after centuries of development, is mechanically strong and efficient, but knowledge of its interaction with the soil, and what it does to the soil it

inverts, can best be described as empirical, the institute says.

The gist of it is that, while soil should not be compressed too heavily, it can be damaged by excessive rupture or disintegration from being churned up too violently. That should give competitors in the world ploughing championships, in Lincolnshire later this year, something to think about.

John Young.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 453)



ACROSS
1 Bike (5)
4 Tire out (7)
8 Sparrow (5)

DOWN
1 Askew (4)
2 Use (8)
3 Inactive (5)
5 Outskirts (7)
6 Afterwards (7)
7 Jolt (inheritor) (6)
8 Mohammed (5)
9 Wholly (6)
10 Famous Palace (13)
11 Car (4)
12 US postcode (7)
13 Secure affection (6)
14 Monument (8)
15 Cross-country runner (7)
16 More suitable (6)
17 Amative (5)
18 Mistletoe (4)

Recommended dictionary is the New Collins Concise

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MONDAY PAGE

Dreams do come true

Shirley Lowe meets a mother of six on a Welsh estate whose first novel is an international best-seller

Six years ago, Elaine Crowley, a middle-aged wife and mother living in an estate of glum, cement-clad semi in Port Talbot, South Wales, wrote a short story about a middle-aged wife and mother who writes a best-seller, makes a great deal of money, dyes her hair blonde and returns to her village in triumph and a swanky pale blue Mercedes.

It has turned out to be Mrs Crowley's own story exactly, except that she has not dyed her hair blonde and she cannot drive. Her first novel, one of those blockbusting, too-heavy, to-hold-up-in-bed family sagas concerning the fortunes of the rich Kilgourns up at the castle and the poor O'Haras at the gate, during the time of the Irish potato famine, is to be published on Thursday. Already her publisher has sold the paperback rights for £67,000, the largest amount ever paid to a British publisher for a first novel, and Doubleday in New York has advanced £40,000 for a two-book contract.

"But what are you doing to do with all that money?" friends and neighbours and reporters keep asking Mrs Crowley, and she replies cheerfully that she intends doing nothing at all. Sitting in her small back garden, a lovingly reared profusion of colour, she says that she likes being there, between the mountains and the sea, within walking distance of her church, library and friends, that all the posher houses in Port Talbot



Elaine Crowley at home: A novel and a small fortune, thanks to redundancy

The book turned out to be Mrs Crowley's own story exactly

are up the hill and have scrappy little back yards rather than proper gardens. This has been a good house in which to bring up a family and she doesn't see any point in leaving it.

"David, my husband, is 64 now and I'm 57 and we don't want to start sitting on steps at our ages," she says briskly. "I can't drive a car, I've got masses of clothes, we've already put in gas central heating and really, the thing I've liked about the money is being able to pay off Sean's overdraft without having to think about it."

Sean is 21, an art student, the youngest of Elaine's six children who have all grown up to have successful careers in medicine, teaching, the law, journalism and design. The best time in her life was when she had her babies, says Mrs Crowley, even though she sometimes felt like the heroine in her short story, that she'd like to get out and do something astonishingly successful to show

football boots and eating a couple of loaves between meals and I had to find a part-time job."

She became an Avon lady and, that first Christmas, made enough to buy daughter Pat a suede coat. I wasn't a good saleswoman because I hated selling to people who I knew couldn't afford to buy. And then, you do feel more or less obliged to buy your own samples. After that she was relief dinner helper at a comprehensive school and went on to a £5-a-week job as a sleeping-deck worker for Ladybird.

"You sat on a machine from nine in the morning until three in the afternoon and were expected to put up your hand if you wanted to go to the lavatory. I told them I stopped doing that when I left school, but I liked working there, the smell of the materials, the lovely colours and textures, and I only packed it in because my eyesight wasn't too good and it was getting to be a hell of a job to thread the needle."

She went to work, on a

computer, in the personnel department of British Steel and, as the company started laying off workers rather than taking them on, Elaine was one of the first to apply for the firm's voluntary redundancy scheme, 10 years ago. She had a lump sum of £1,500, £19 a month and

She works at the old battered desk where her children did their homework

the first free time in her life. So, she wrote an article about the joys of redundancy, the luxury of not having to cram a week's household chores into a weekend, not rushing home from work each evening to find the family waiting around the dining room table like hungry birds, and she sold it to *Annabel* magazine for £15. "I thought, 'That's it, I'm made, I'm a journalist'. But, almost every thing I wrote after that came back with a rejection slip."

Elaine persevered. She joined a writers' circle in Swansea, won prizes and began a novel (she is now rewriting it and it will be published as her second book). About that time, the marriage of one of her daughters broke up and she came home to work as a teacher, leaving Elaine to look after three-year-old David, as well as her own teenagers.

Elaine has never said she knew she'd be able to write "if only she had the time". She wrote when she didn't have the time, in the sitting room, across from her husband and the television set after preparing and clearing up the family dinner, in the garden, watching over David in his paddling pool. "I'd say, 'Just be quiet for five minutes. Nan is going to write a book and she might be famous'."

It took her four years to write her first book, putting down the scenes as they came into her head and when she had the time. "Sometimes I'll write or type for half an hour, then I'll wash up a few cups and do a bit of weeding, but it's all there, in my mind." Her family were

encouraging, buying dictionaries and being being prepared to listen.

"When Thomas was courting, he'd let himself in at midnight and I'd grab him and say: 'Hey, listen to this... I have to have an audience, to hear it read aloud.' She picked her agent with a pin - luckily piercing the professionals who deal with writers such as Dick Francis and Maevie Binchy - and, since then, she has enjoyed the frothy success of her short-story heroine; the telephone calls from New York at prime time, the chic London lunches with her publisher, the celebrity interviews.

She is pleased with the money as the ultimate confirmation that she is a writer but can't really come to terms with the amount. "Really, you'd want to see all those £1 notes laid out on the floor before you'd believe it, wouldn't you?"

Dreams of Other Days by Elaine Crowley, to be published by Century Publishing Co on September 27, price £9.95.

Birth of a new role for men

The Family Planning Association begins a campaign next week to engage men in issues which, although fundamentally linked to birth control, go much further and are more challenging.

The Men Too project is a step towards acknowledging that a critical gap has widened between men and women in the 20 years since the Pill first became available in Britain. Men have to be won back to the point where they feel totally involved in some of life's most important decisions.

Television public announcements will be screened, promoting the idea that contraception involves men too, and young stars such as Gordon Sinclair, the lead in *Gregory's Girl*, have been brought in to help deliver the message.

Since the advent of the Pill, a wealth of information and advice has been provided for women. But family planning authorities, among others, now admit that this emphasis has largely ignored the man's responsibility for birth control.

Two other related issues have also emerged: divorce statistics show that long-term relationships between the sexes have been increasingly prone to breakdown and, according to current research, men may be less able to cope with many of the stresses they now face.

The stereotype image of the "macho" man has begun to fracture. Wide-ranging research shows that such life crises as divorce and widowhood may affect men more profoundly than women, emotionally and physically. Without women, men have higher rates of heart disease, insanity and suicide. Yet today, three times as many women divorce their husbands as men divorce their wives.

At first sight, the FPA's Men Too project seems to be adding to the male's troubles rather than reducing them. The reverse, however, is one object of the exercise.

The year-long campaign is intended to persuade more men of all ages to take an equal share of the responsibility for their personal and sexual relationships as individuals, as partners, as husbands and as parents.

In marriage and other partnerships, the FPA advocates sharing the demands of emotional well-being, sexual health, and the planning of children. Its campaign will call for new attitudes on infertility, childbirth, and learning to be a parent.

Men have felt excluded from many of these issues in recent years. Family planning clinics are almost exclusively the territory of women - less than 2 per cent of clinic visitors are male. Fifteen times more money is spent on researching new methods of birth control for women than on methods for men.

"Perhaps women have not wanted men to be involved, or have not felt men were interested; possibly men have been glad not to be involved," says Dr Michael Smith, FPA honorary chief medical officer.

In a foreword to the recently-published *Choices in Contraception* by Zandra

A lack of understanding between men and women damages their ability to share sexual responsibilities

up expecting their girlfriends to take the Pill, and who have little knowledge or interest in male contraception.

Family planning clinics will make themselves more welcoming and accessible to men. Teaching programmes are being planned with the help of the Health Education Council, and the cooperation of schools and voluntary organizations is being sought. The FPA will stage a national conference on the theme next March.

Women will be encouraged to show their partners that they prefer a masculine man, not a "macho" man, and to discuss contraception with them. The FPA hopes to emphasize the need for five key qualities - trust, caring, openness, flexibility and sharing - which it believes are vital to healthy relationships.

It is hoped that the campaign, even if only partly successful, will reduce the number of unwanted pregnancies in Britain, and free women from the anxieties which are inevitably linked to the Pill. It will, according to the FPA, strengthen the barriers against sexually transmitted disease, and restore to men a right to be involved in the choices of contraception. It may even begin to bridge that gap between the sexes that so often seems one of the widest gulfs of all.

Thomson Prentice

How every second wife can have a first-class marriage

Tom Wolfe's idea of a second wife was somebody called The New Cookie, a sizzling new influence in her husband's life who restored his jaded spirits by taking him to discos and spending all his money.

That was my idea of a second wife too, which is why I became one. Actually, it was even my idea of a first wife right up until the day of my first wedding.

You may think it pure carelessness on my part but twice I have married men who thought were pining for a New Cookie and twice I discovered that what they really wanted was something far more industrious. I think it is fate's way of telling me that I had better keep my nose in close proximity to the grindstone since the only money likely to come my way is my own salary cheque.

But although the delicious role of New Cookie was never to be mine, I am still rather alarmed that a book called *Second Wife, Second Best* is published as part of a series called *Overcoming Common Problems*, alongside *No More Headaches* and *Herpes: What to do when you have it*.

I am not a Common Problem. Like every other second wife, I inhabit that bumpy area somewhere between Tom Wolfe's account of the disco dazzer and terminal distress.

Second Wife, Second Best is the result of a survey conducted among 200 second wives who volunteered to answer a questionnaire concerning their marital condition. It decisively confirms my theory that people who take part in surveys and life's little grumblers.

Those of us who are more or less contented with our lot are too busy having an enjoyable time to answer questions such as "If you have been both a first wife and a second wife, what would you say were the



PENNY PERRICK

tribute to a shared past.

However, one can always put a stop to it by expressing an interest in hearing about times that "I'm afraid I'm too young to remember all that well" and an even livelier interest in the lady's husband.

I do not perceive the Rebecca syndrome to be a problem, common or otherwise, for second wives. If your husband's associates persist in paying homage to wife number one, you should be very relieved. You don't want to be married to a man who has dubious taste, do you?

Since the belief is quite prevalent that men always choose the same sort of woman, I would not care to be married to anyone whose previous wife was generally considered to be a mean old bat.

The second wives in the survey moaned about their stepchildren a lot but, as in so much else in their lives, they had just struck unlucky.

Where I live, charming stepchildren are thick on the ground and my own eldest stepson is so enchanting that my unattached female friends make frequent phone calls to find out whether "he's started to get interested in older women yet."

Nor should second wives feel slighted at not having shared their husbands' early struggles and triumphs. It is possible that had they met them 20 years previously, they wouldn't have taken to them at all so they should be grateful that their first encounter took place only after their husbands had shaken down into suave middle age.

Or, as one of my husband's nicest old friends said to me: "It's so clever of you to have married Frank when you did, at a time when he must be well over the male menopause."

Second Wife, Second Best by Glynnis Walker, The Sheldon Press, £2.95.

I'm all in favour of a throwaway lifestyle

Professor Laurie Taylor, a victim of overcrowded bookshelves, writes wistfully, "If only books went off", so that once past their "read by" date, you could throw them out with no regrets, just like ancient pots of yoghurt.

But books do carry a "read by" date even though it may not manifest itself in mouldy bindings and mottled pages. Certain novels, such as *Fear of Flying* and *La Bataille*, are now way past their expiry date. If they are still on your shelves unread, you may as well sling them out since you will certainly never get around to reading them now.

Films carry an invisible "see by" date and it is now far too late to see *The Deerhunter* and *Gone with the Wind*, although *Les Enfants du Paradis* and

Some Like It Hot are almost everlasting, like Longfellow milk.

Politicians have a "notice by" date, which means that if you have neglected to take heed of Sir Ian Gilmour, Shirley Williams and Enoch Powell, it would be a waste of time to start now.

Acquaintances have a "see by" factor. If you haven't kept in touch with that amusing family you met in Tuscany in 1982, throw out the piece of paper with their address scrawled on it - it is past its prime.

My grateful thanks to Professor Taylor for first suggesting the "read by" theory. Rigorously applied to all areas of life, it can rid it of a surprising amount of mental and physical clutter.

TALKBACK

From Sir Reginald Murrell, Consulting Surgeon, Wellington Hospital, Wellington, Place London, NW8

Alison Miller is to be congratulated on her Wednesday Page article on breast cancer (September 12), but she errs in suggesting that most of the treatment of breast cancer is by mastectomy. The fact is that the only successful treatment of breast cancer is by mastectomy. While agreeing that the overly enthusiastic attitudes of some surgeons should be criticized, it is worthy of note that British surgical practice has been slow in advance of that in the United States.

Some 60 years ago, the late Sir Geoffrey Keynes, following his experience with radical treatment in unfavourable breast cancers, began to practice conservative surgery and abandoned radical mastectomy. His results were published in a succession of papers between 1927 and 1937, attracting considerable interest as well as some vilification. Immediately after the Second World War there was an opportunity to

review Keynes's experience at St Bartholomew's Hospital and to compare it with other methods of treatment. While undertaking that research, and before publication of the results, I became convinced that there was no justification for radical surgery. I did my last such operation in 1952.

One of the patients described by Alison Miller is reported as saying that 16 years ago radical mastectomy was "the only treatment for breast cancer" but this is not so. Indeed, a nationwide survey of 600 fellows of the Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland at that time showed that only 54 per cent still favoured the radical operation, and that more than half of even these surgeons practised a more limited and less mutilating procedure.

In the United States, for a variety of reasons, there was greater delay in abandoning radical surgery. Dr George Cline Jr, of Cleveland Clinic, was a

perpetuator of the Keynesian philosophy and did much to spread the message in the United States. But he was often opposed by much more bitter and sustained surgical "flak" than was ever experienced in this country. The final breakthrough in America was undoubtedly when the wives of a president and a vice-president both developed breast cancer in the early 1970s. For the first time, women all over that country realized that there were alternatives to radical surgery, and that well-informed consumer pressure brought much-needed change.

Although the United States lagged behind Britain I would suggest that there is no reason for complacency even in this country. I would firmly encourage every woman who may find herself in this unhappy situation to undergo a cross-examination by a breast cancer surgeon, and to consider the radical line of treatment. And in these days of powerful chemotherapy let each patient remember that it is not only the surgeons she may need to question.

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THE TIMES DIARY

Second front

Are the Russians trying to influence the presentation of a VE Day exhibition at the Imperial War Museum next May? That, or something, is certainly worrying Lord Gowrie's Office of Arts and Libraries. The Soviet military attaché rang the museum's director, Alan Borg, last week offering assistance with the fortieth anniversary exhibition. A mole tells me that an internal memo has now appeared in the OAL suggesting it ask the Foreign Office whether a Russian contribution would be "embarrassing". Borg, who is keen to be lent examples of Russian equipment of the time, plans to meet the attaché this week to find out exactly what kind of assistance the Russians have in mind.

Prime time

Calman's Everyman was far too charitable to Mrs Thatcher in his cartoon on *The Times* front page last Thursday. What the wicked BBC actually played during her Jimmy Young interview on Wednesday was "What Kind of Fool Am I?" and "The Fool on the Hill".

Checked out

You are only as good as your next six course dinner at London's Grosvenor House Hotel in Park Lane. In July, general manager Peter Eyskens was being fired at the Hotel of the Year awards. Not only had he won the top prize, he had secured the Grosvenor House as venue for the ceremony. Today he is out of a job, having left "by mutual consent". Successor Matt Bucciantini is the hotel's third general manager in two years. It cannot be an easy job: owner Lord Forte's headquarters are just upstairs.

Nuked

No chance of the Tories going down the Lib/Lab road to unilateralism: witness the treatment meted out to Bruce Fraser on Saturday when he attempted to set up a Conservative CND. Right-wingers packed the meeting, elected their own men to key posts, and having voted to affiliate to CND, passed a motion undertaking to work within it for "the multilateral abandonment of nuclear weapons and continued support for Nato until the destruction of the Soviet Empire". Fraser stormed from the meeting, but it is hard to feel sorry for him. In August he told an apparent supporter in a letter since passed to this column that he believed that TACT, an earlier attempt by CND supporters to set up a unilateralist group within the Tory party, had failed because its founder was not a Conservative party member. Forewarned, Fraser, a CND member for at least two years, conveniently joined the Conservatives in June.

BARRY FANTONI



"I hear that stocks of Belgrano replies will last until next year"

Golf slink

Obsessed as ever with security, officials at Shannon Airport were naturally concerned to find a big red bag of golfclubs left on the tarmac the other day. It had not been claimed by any of the passengers on the Aer Lingus flight to London packed with EEC finance ministers who had been meeting in nearby Dromoland Castle. Finally an air hostess made an urgent appeal. Who should slink up from his seat but a shamed-faced Robin Leigh-Pemberton, Governor of the ultra security-conscious Bank of England.

Flight and fight

When it comes to tricks and propaganda, British Airways and British Caledonian leave the political parties in the shade. They are doing battle at all the party conferences to woo MPs to their respective causes. BCal's big coup so far is to have snapped up all internal television advertising for the Tory conference while BA was leisurely booking it for the less important Liberal, Labour and SDP affairs. BA, however, stole a march on BCal at the SDP conference not only by slipping quietly into the hall one night to leave glossy propaganda on every seat, but by importing air hostesses to charm the delegates. BCal retaliated by taking its own glamour girls to Bournemouth for the Liberal assembly; its directors will be at Blackpool for Labour next week and its chairman, Sir Adam Thornton, at Brighton for the Tories. That's when the talons will be out in earnest. Also there will be BA's Lord King.

PHS

Ken Livingstone, in conversation with Tariq Ali, urges Kinnock and Co to get out of the House and reconvert the party's lost supporters by conducting a national teach-in

How Labour can win



voters weren't thinking of the South Atlantic when they voted. I think that deep cultural and political attitudes, going back a hundred years or more, were freshly awakened during the war.

Healey's and Kinnock's references to the Falklands war during the closing stages of this campaign were not just belated, but sounded phoney. The time to have opposed was when the war was begun. I think Labour's decision to back Thatcher in the South Atlantic was a crucial error, and we have paid the price. Opposition would not have automatically ensured that we won, but at least we would have countered the prevailing mood and maintained ideological bridgeheads which would have been invaluable later.

Do you think that the present electoral system is patently undemocratic? The majority of voters did not vote for the Tories, but we have a Conservative government with a 144-seat majority.

In principle I have always been in favour of proportional representation, by this I mean something like the German system, where over half the members of parliament are directly elected, and a top-up of actual votes received by different parties. I would simply insist that the top-up would have to be of defeated candidates, on the basis of the highest vote downwards. Otherwise you give too much power to the party bureaucracy.

What would you see as the major planks of a credible socialist economic policy which could be implemented by a left government in this country?

I think we could see a left government before this decade is over, and it is therefore a realistic question. The first argument we have to get across is that we need to control the flow of capital. This means curbing the speculators in the City of London. Providing you use the terminology of people's everyday experience, and not some turgid economic jargon, you can win back the lost voters. It shouldn't be difficult to explain to working people that a Labour government intends to use

that their policies didn't add up and crumbled in front of the TV cameras. It was embarrassing. You advised party activists not to get sidetracked by internal wranglings, but to employ their energies in marginal seats.

The broad role of the left within the party is to focus on the 120 or possibly 140 seats that we must win from the Tories. That is where a dramatic transformation of the Parliamentary Labour Party will come from.

It is a real danger on the British left, and not just in the Labour Party, that because it can be such fun abusing each other, we devote a vast amount of time to this sport. No one on the other side of the class divide would waste so much time on whether the Duke of Norfolk should be removed or punished in some way for upsetting the government in a House of Lords division. They prefer to surge on and smash the next trade union they can lay their hands on. We have to work out which are the really big prizes, and go for them. There is nobody who is so perfect in their political record that you can say you support them one hundred per cent.

How do you see the miners' strike? The mood among the miners' strike is totally different from that in 1974, because these are totally different times. 1973 and 1974 came at the culmination of a 25-year world boom. Workers had developed a lot of confidence and expected full employment and a rising standard of living; then they saw the Heath government challenge a lot of things they had taken for granted, and they reacted quite firmly and eventually defeated it.

The lesson that the Tories drew was that they would have to be much better prepared the next time. They spent the whole of the mid-1970s on a propaganda campaign to convince people that we had to rein in the trade unions and cut back the welfare state - and in this they were echoed by many key people on Labour's front bench. So they won the intellectual ground; they won the hearts and minds of a substantial proportion of the population to the view that these things now had to be done. And from the point of view of the Tory Party they do have to be done, given the change in the nature of the world economy and the problems of British capital. They can't avoid making those sorts of attacks on organized labour.

Mrs Thatcher was defeated by the miners in 1980 over the question of pit closures. She admitted it. But as a political party advocate our responsibility and rely on opinion polls to guide us through the next general election. We've got to go out and convince people.

The whole of the party leadership needs to be driven out of Parliament, if necessary with cattle prods since they find it a very attractive place, and forced to stomp up and down the country talking to ordinary people and trying to convince them. This is their real job. You can't win the ideological battle for these policies in the space of an election campaign. Thatcher won in 1979 partly because for four whole years she had conducted a national teach-in with the help of key sectors of the Establishment. We now need to do something similar.

The details of implementing our policies have clearly not been worked out. When we took over the Greater London Council, we had already discussed a lengthy blueprint of what was needed and what we were going to do. This enabled many of the new left-wing councillors to have the commitment to implement policies and the confidence to argue for them, in the face of near-universal hostility.

The Labour Party needs to do this for itself on a national scale. I don't think I've ever seen anything as depressing as the last election campaign, when so many Labour leaders, in the middle of arguments with the Tories, suddenly realized

Robert Fisk on the implications of the mounting Lebanese resistance

Turn of the tide but not only Israel will suffer

as those at Sohmor; and the resistance against the Israelis is now reaching a critical stage that is likely to have a profound effect not only on Israel itself but on the almost universal belief that the Israeli army is one of the most powerful and efficient in the world.

Today, for the first time, Arab guerrilla resistance is slowly driving the Israelis out of territory which it has captured and occupied in war. The humiliation of this has yet to be appreciated in Israel: nor has its significance yet dawned on the Arab states. But the Israeli military authorities are beginning to realize that its effect is going to be incalculable.

It is not a story which the Israelis want the world to know about. Many of the guerrilla attacks against their army in Southern Lebanon are no longer recorded publicly by their military authorities. Journalists have found it increasingly difficult to enter the Israeli occupation zone. And last week, in an unprecedented act against foreign correspondents, the Israeli army put four journalists - two from *The Times* and two from the Associated Press news agency - under arrest. They were ordered out of the occupation area with an escort of gunmen from the "South Lebanon Army", the same organization which had carried out the massacre at Sohmor a few hours earlier.

against Lebanese militiamen or collaborators.

Only two Israelis have been killed so far this month but the attacks on their convoys are growing ever more professional. The Israelis have found "daisy chain" mines - laid to explode in a pattern around a man already wounded by explosives - and at least one armoured column has been attacked with mines set off under the first and last vehicles.

There is increasing evidence that the former Palestinian guerrillas living in the squalor of the Ein Helwe refugee camp in Sidon - notionally under Israeli occupation, although Israeli collaborators there are also being murdered - may have taught the Lebanese how to heat plastic explosives for mines. The "South Lebanon Army" has itself now been penetrated by the guerrillas. At least one Shia SLA man was discovered setting a roadside mine this month, trying to kill his Israeli employers.

But there are far greater tragedies to come: when Israel pulls back to the Zahran river, Sidon will presumably have to be abandoned to the SLA, who are likely to be driven out of the city by Druze and Shia Muslim gunmen, perhaps also by the Palestinians from Ein Helwe.

The next Israeli withdrawal is therefore likely to set off a civil war every bit as bloody as the one which consumed the Chouf when the Israelis retreated from the mountains a year ago.

Terrible things appear to be in store in Southern Lebanon. Now that America is identified more closely with the Israelis, the Israeli's enemies are going to feel emboldened to strike at the Americans again and Israel's defeat in the south will only encourage these attacks. What happens in the coming months, therefore, will affect not just the Lebanese but the relationship between Israel and the US, the very scaffolding upon which American Middle East policy is constructed.

Mark Kirk

To Russia with compliments

There is a lot of talk in the Pentagon about the "two-way street" between the United States and its allies in the production of weapons. This two-way street is often bedevilled by fears that the sale of technologies to America's allies might end up in the hands of its enemies. The problem is more serious because of another two-way street, not usually talked about by the Pentagon. It is built on the growing trade between western arms manufacturers and the users of Soviet-made weapons.

This trade not only transfers western technologies to rather questionable customers but shows the Soviets exactly how their weapons could be improved. It shows the contradictions in a Nato policy that weakens its internal bonds while helping the purchasers of Soviet weapons.

The trade in Soviet weaponry is not new. When Egypt joined the western camp after 1973, the US Air Force bought 24 MiG-21s and four MiG-23 Soviet-built jet fighters to practise against. The residents of Nellis Air Force base, Nevada, are used to the sight of MiG-21s in US markings engaged in mock combat with US pilots.

This programme has had its problems. The MiG-21, first produced in 1956, is described as having primitive avionics, poor navigation and "serious problems" with the engine. Engine problems also seem to plague the more advanced MiG-23. US Lt-Gen Robert M. Bond was killed last April while reportedly flying a MiG-23. The East Germans have also had problems flying the MiG-21 and 23. Their air force reportedly lost 48 fighter planes in 1983 and approximately a dozen more in the first four months of 1984.

In spite of these problems, the use of Soviet planes to train US pilots has been successful enough to tempt the LTV corporation into considering buying 24 MiG-21s from China for use by the US Navy. These Chinese-built aircraft are even cruder copies of the MiG-21s already owned by the air force. Nevertheless, no one can doubt that they would nearly replicate the performance of the MiG-21s that are the mainstay of the Soviet, East European and many Third World air forces.

Western purchases of Soviet equipment are very small compared to US and allied sales to former

Soviet customers. Some of these sales are undoubtedly in our interest. Last month, the Chinese defence minister, Zhang Aiping, secured a deal "in principle" to buy US-built air defence radars, anti-tank and anti-aircraft weapons. These sales should contribute substantially to China's rather primitive equipment with little chance of the equipment getting into Soviet or pro-Soviet hands. What is more interesting is the production of "improvement kits" for Soviet weapons by western manufacturers for sale to Soviet customers in the Middle East.

In the US, one defence contractor is involved in producing an improvement kit for the Soviet SA-7 anti-aircraft missile. The SA-7 is used by a number of Middle Eastern nations, from moderate states like Egypt to more radical states like Syria and Libya. If this kit were to "fall off the back of a truck" into the hands of terrorists, the danger to civilians would be increased.

British firms have not ignored this trade. The most ambitious project must be the Royal Ordnance Factory's new gun for the Soviet T-54/55 tank, used by many Third World countries and China. The Ordnance factories have produced a better gun for the tank allowing it to fire a variety of advanced ammunition. If a buyer of this equipment sent one of these kits to the Soviets, the effect could be tremendous. The Soviets still have thousands of T-54/55 tanks that could use this equipment. In selling them a better version of their own tank, we would have not only transferred our valuable technology but showed them where every last screw and bolt should go in order to do it. Marconi, another British firm, has also mounted an advanced laser system to ensure gun shooting from Soviet-built tanks.

This "other" two-way street is far more of a problem than the sale of arms and technologies to our allies. It is one thing to sell the Soviets a basic technology that may be applied to a weapon after a few years work; it is another to show the Soviets exactly how to improve existing weapons. As Lenin said, "the capitalists shall sell us the rope we will hang them with."

The author is a Research Fellow at the Centre for Defence Information in Washington.

Anne Sofer

Action - or the Riot Act

The police, it is rumoured, are beginning to get very worried. That is not at all surprising, and perhaps it is time there was a high-level confidential discussion at Number Ten between Mrs Thatcher and Sir Kenneth Newman, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner.

Does she realize, Sir Kenneth might ask, what problems are brewing for us in London? Things have been relatively quiet since the Brixton disturbances three years ago, and we have worked hard at keeping them so; here and there, across London, we have even managed to establish cordial relations with the community leaders. Despite the efforts of Labour councils to keep us apart, of course it is not easy because some of our keenest young chaps are not exactly the soul of tact or free from racial prejudice (yes, I'm afraid that embarrassing Policy Studies Institute report was only too accurate) but I hope, Prime Minister, you appreciate what we have achieved. That recent fall in the crime figures was quite a filip.

But, you know, there really are these thousands and thousands of young people in London with nothing to do, and if various colleagues of yours do what they say they intend, there are going to be thousands more and even less for them to do. The situation is going to get beyond even our powers of containment...

This, or something like it, is what I hope he would say. He is in a position to know better than anyone how services in London cost more than anywhere else in the country; spending on the Metropolitan Police has increased more over the last three years than has spending on either education or social services. He is also in a position to know that the Youth Training Scheme - whatever its virtues or otherwise - only occupies one of those eight dragging years between 16 and 24 where the incidence of unemployment is highest. In some parts of London it is now over 50 per cent, and among young people from the ethnic minorities considerably higher.

A patchwork of youth clubs, walk-in centres, outreach careers officers, community projects, arts workshops, and special training schemes spreads itself thinly and untidily over the huge problem. The fact that the favour of some of this activity is that of the Urban Left - you are likely to encounter CND posters and "Cool not Dole" stickers along with dreadlocks and feminist symbols when you visit the basements and temporary huts and converted warehouses where it takes place - has unfortunately fuelled the suspicion among the more paranoid ministers that it is potentially revolutionary. The reverse is the case: often these little organizations form the only available bridge between disaffected young people and the rest of society. The police are well aware of this.

Government policy, emanating from a number of different departments, is combining to undermine precisely this sort of provision. Already, "Mode B" schemes under the Youth Training Scheme have

been cut back by 25 per cent; these are the schemes that are run by charities or other non-profit-making organizations that make special efforts to reach and train groups with particular needs, the handicapped, those with English as a second language and young offenders, for example.

Some of these schemes have looked for alternative funding from the Greater London Training Board, a committee of the GLC. The GLC is clearly not the ideal body to have charge of training but none the less, as with so much of its discretionary spending, it has been filling a gap which should never have been allowed to develop. Government action to redefine the GLC's powers has already limited what it can do and abolition will presumably cut off this source of funding altogether.

Meanwhile, recapturing will take something like £200 million out of the spending of London authorities, and inevitably some of this will come out of the budgets that particularly affect young people - the further education colleges, the clubs, the sports facilities, the holiday projects. They are particularly at risk for two reasons. First, many of them are "non-statutory" in other words councils can cease their operation without breaking the law; and second, they are disproportionately staffed by part-timers who have no legal protection and can thus be laid off more easily.

Yet another factor will aggravate youth unemployment this year and next: the reduction of places in higher education. This is happening at a time when increasing demand means a backing up into the labour market of a large number of qualified school leavers, and hence a displacement lower down the attainment range of young people who would otherwise have found jobs.

"It's all your own fault," shout Conservative councillors at the Labour benches. "If you had not spent so recklessly, it would never have come to this." And there is an element of truth in that. But it is fair, moral or - to put it at its basest - electorally sensible to punish the people for the folly of their political leaders? Even after it had assumed rate-capping powers, the Government did not have to demand cuts so huge that even London Tory MPs are privately horrified. Even if it wanted to re-organize London government, it did not have to do it in such a scramble that a great number of worthy charitable organizations dependent on public funding just do not know where they are to turn. And even if it does prefer employers' training schemes to those of the voluntary bodies, it need not have applied this doctrinaire preference in such a swinging way as to deprive many of those most in need of any hope of a place.

It is likely, but no less deeply depressing for that, that Mrs Thatcher's only response to the approach I hope Sir Kenneth Newman is making will be to ask him how much more money he needs to keep the turbulent and troublesome capital city in order

The author is SDP member of the GLC/ILEA for St Pancras North.

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BEYOND THE MOUNTAIN RANGE

Not for the first time Mr Enoch Powell on Friday had the most profound things to say about the coal strike, certainly more profound than those which emerged from another pulpit. He said that the conflict between miners was a symptom of the general predicament of a society caught up in a rapid and continuing economic revolution. "The miners who strike and the miners who refuse to strike are acting out the emotional dilemma of the nation itself." During the next ten to 20 years the whole nation, not just the miners, would have to surmount a high and daunting threshold, whose steepness is imperfectly represented by the volume of unemployment, though the statistics serve as some measure of the alterations that will be needed to adapt to the new environment. "Like some great host on the move towards new lands beyond a mountain barrier, the nation looks for encouragement and inspiration to its leaders and representatives", he said.

It is true that whatever we fear or fight about in the outside world is also a battle within ourselves. To talk about the miners or the government is to risk ignoring the fact that all groups of humanity consist first and last of individuals. How shall we judge the matter fairly unless we admit that this predicament, this fear of the future, this propensity to violence and one-sidedness in deed and word, is also the problem of each one of us within?

It is aggravated, of course, when it gets caught up and identified with a mass movement. The civil war which grips the miners, which indeed grips the nation, gives over to rising violence of behaviour and argument which must remind us how dangerous it is, once these embers are fanned, to blame others for our fall from grace. Once in the mob, the individual is tempted to blame violence on external causes; but nothing could explode within us unless it had been there already.

So the predicament identified by Mr Powell, as with other sea changes which have occurred in society, tends to be attributed to external causes when in fact it is often merely the symptom of a profound change in individuals' attitude to life and the world, long prepared in the unconscious, waiting for a pretext to express itself. Some individuals can sense this change before others. They articulate it in a way which finds echoes in the minds of many people who felt

that change was afoot but could not see it. Others with equal intuition articulate hostility to the new ideas and embody the often violent resistance which new ideas invoke.

In the coal strike there are such protagonists. They are symptoms of this struggle. That is why the Bishop of Durham's address, as one more symptom, should not merit too angry a response, though it is a surprising abuse of the pulpit and the panoply of an episcopal enthronement to sneer at an individual public servant for being "an elderly imported American" ignoring, along with so many other factors of the dispute, that Mr Ian MacGregor is Scots born and only left these shores at the age of 28 sent by the British Government to America to help with the war effort. The new bishop, only ten years younger, pursued a relatively unimpressive career in academic posts, but what makes him so sure that the "divine providence" which apparently summoned him to Durham was any less instrumental in recalling Mr MacGregor to this appointment in the country of his birth?

In the national struggle currently enacted by miner against miner, each with his cheerleader, it appears that the church can offer no more than sectional support. How does it lie with real leadership to lift us out of this struggle to look beyond that mountain range identified by Mr Powell?

The Prime Minister in her BBC interview last week put a necessary stop to the sense of drift and helplessness in the face of concerted and persistent violence of the Scargillites against their opponents. To the extent that this violence is an affront to us all she must do more, since its physical and moral effect does not stay confined to the coalfield, as though within the ropes of a boxing-ring. It laps over us all and will if unchecked excite dangerous counter passions which lurk beneath the surface.

In the long struggle ahead leadership of the kind which the Prime Minister could offer inevitably has to remain somewhat detached from the fray. But it is not enough to declare that violence will not pay and that economic pits, whatever the cost of the struggle, will have to be closed.

The starkness of that message will need some more positive imaginative overlay in the months ahead. The danger of a split-trench attitude to the future of the coal industry is already

only too apparent as Mr MacGregor sees the TUC today. He will unfortunately deploy his arguments in favour of the settlement on offer, and try to show that he is being consistent with the Plan for Coal and Mr Tony Benn's legislation which followed it. Very cogent Mr MacGregor will be, but both positions are ill-fated since they condemn the coal industry to a future which can only be blighted by the existing structure of a nationalized Coal Board and the inevitable and permanent statism with which that structure will infect management and union.

The time must shortly come when a decisive and radical change is brought about in the whole attitude to coal extraction. It must replace the current structure of the coal industry to the ultimate advantage of the worker/owners left in it. On present plans the recovery from the strike is bound to involve even greater losses and therefore further subsidies. Beyond that is only the promise of unending conflict between the tax payer and the National Union of Mineworkers.

This is the moment when the government should innovate by exploring the break-up of the national structure of the Coal Board and replacing it where possible with worker ownership, having a majority or minority shareholding within the context of conventional privatization. Responsibility for licensing mining operations, both on- and underground, should be removed from the National Coal Board.

Then the future run-down of some mining communities in decaying pits could be handled as a social task not an industrial one. It could be aided by comprehensive redundancy payments and area development schemes whose cost would be somewhat defrayed by the reduction in the running subsidy and the cash raised by privatization.

That is likely to be the landscape of the coal industry in that country beyond Mr Powell's mountain range. It would be better now to explore its contours in the heat of this struggle than to perpetuate the rigidities which have to some extent caused this struggle. Such a reconnaissance would make the intervening heights of change and uncertainty that much easier to scale. That is the kind of leadership and sense of direction which the nation wants and needs.

PRIVATIZATION AT SIXTY

Occasionally there comes a moment in even the most unpromising select committee hearing which compensates for the hours of tedium. So it was just before the summer recess at the end of a four-month inquiry by the Commons Treasury and Civil Service Committee into the controls applied to senior members of the civil service and the armed forces wishing to take business appointments.

Sir Robert Armstrong, Secretary of the Cabinet, was asked if he agreed with the suggestion of Sir Douglas Wass, with whom he shared the chairmanship of the select committee until last year, that the advisory committee under Lord Diamond which examines the Whitehall-private sector traffic would be improved by the addition of two MPs. Sir Robert's face instantly displayed his distaste for such an idea and he engaged in what seemed an age of circumlocution while he searched for a formula which would minimize the potential insult to an old colleague and to the MPs interrogating him. Finally he said "I think this is a process from which the day-to-day thrust of political differences would want to be excluded".

Sir Robert claimed he was "open minded" about the possibility of change but proceeded to pour cold water over virtually all suggestions for reform including a code of conduct (another idea from the Wasse table). Clearly the MPs were not deterred by the strong Whitehall resistance to change which Sir Robert's words presaged. For there in their report last week was the recommendation for two senior

backbenchers to be appointed to the advisory committee, the Wasse code of practice and his recommendation of an extension from two to five years of the post-retirement period in which a senior official or officer is obliged to seek permission before taking a post of profit in the private sector.

The thrust of the report is sound. Even in the absence of corruption, there has been public and parliamentary disquiet about the ease with which officials and officers have slid into companies on retirement, particularly in the defence area where the traffic has been most dense and the links between the companies concerned and an individual's field of specialism in official life have been most marked. It would be sensible for the advisory committee to be more rigorous in its inquiries and to conduct a follow-up to ensure that any conditions it imposed had been observed.

It would also be a good idea for the criteria on which the advisory committee reaches its decisions to be made explicit. And there is no harm in an extension of the sensitive period from two to five years provided debarring for a quinquennium is treated as justified in only the most delicate cases. Abatement of pension for officials and officers refusing to comply with voluntary controls may seem harsh; but sanctions held in reserve can concentrate the mind of the waverer, though it is not recorded that any retiring official has ever disobeyed a recommendation of the advisory committee.

Senior civil servants and members of the armed forces may feel got at by the report. They can argue, with justification, that their standards of probity are peerless not only by world standards but by British standards. Why should they be subject to a regime which does not apply to persons moving the other way from the private sector into Whitehall or to individuals moving from company to company.

The answer is as clear as it may be unpalatable. The standards of conduct expected of public servants are higher than those expected of other people. The same applies to ministers. That is as it should be. Public money and public trust are involved in large doses. The general tightening up recommended by the select committee would, if adopted, help reinforce an existing climate of probity.

That said, the Treasury and Civil Service Committee has made a meal of this subject. Two lengthy investigations in three years is excessive. That has distracted its members from a host of Whitehall issues crying out for ventilation such as the debate about the capability of the government machine started by Sir John Hoskyns two years ago, freedom of information and the current ferment about ethics. The committee, rightly, has made much of the need for efficiency and effectiveness in Whitehall operations. It is time it took stock of the efficiency and effectiveness of its own priorities and workload.

Relics of a Saxon king

From Dr Richard Gem
Sir, Your report (September 15) of the High Court proceedings relating to the supposed relics of King Edward the Martyr brings back before the public a matter that has been simmering for a long time. It is important, therefore, that the true facts of the case should be made clear once and for all.

It is only if the relics really are the mortal remains of the Anglo-Saxon monarch that anyone will care much where they are finally laid to rest.

Some years ago a scientific examination of the material was arranged and carried out through the British Museum and this should have thrown light on the age, sex and manner of death of the individual.

However, the results of this examination were never made public and this must lead to speculation that they gave an unfavourable verdict. In fact it is understood in the academic community that the examination indicated that the individual was of a mature age and certainly not the juvenile that Edward is known to have been at the time of his death.

Coupled with this must be taken into consideration that the evidence for identifying the relics as those of Edward was extremely slender from the archaeological point of view.

May we hope that it is not too late for a few scientific facts to dispel the clouds of romantic wishful thinking and legal controversy?

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD GEM,
The Bathy,
Meatmore,
Leighton Buzzard,
Bedfordshire,
September 15.

Labour mobility drawbacks

From Mr John H. Clement

Sir, All who are concerned about the consequences for the older industrial areas of Britain of the movement of the younger, more active and more able people to the more prosperous regions of the country in order to obtain employment have cause to be grateful to Mr L. P. Burdon (September 20) for drawing attention to this issue.

What is frequently overlooked, however, is that such a population shift, involving as it does severe penalties for the "exporting regions", also involves equally severe penalties for the "importing regions". Indeed, many of the difficult problems and major inconveniences facing areas such as the South-east of England today - high cost housing, pressures on the green belt, road traffic congestion, overcrowded peak-time commuter services etc - are a legacy of past migrations from the peripheral regions of the country.

In human terms there can be no doubt that the right policy is to take the work to the workers. Taking everything into account it is also almost certainly the best policy in economic terms.

Yours faithfully,
J. H. CLEMENT,
6 St Briol Road,
Heath,
Cardiff,
South Glamorgan,
September 20.

From Mr J. H. Wellings

Sir, The outstanding difference in flexibility in this matter is revealed in the comparative mobility of labour in the USA, where housing is as readily available as any other commodity.

For example, when a skilled worker becomes aware that his employment is to end in say, Los Angeles, by the end of the month and finds there is work in Dallas, 1,500 miles away, he is able to make arrangements for the equity in his California home to be available to him in Texas.

He and his family will then drive out the weekend to his new location, often with furnishings they wish to retain in a large rented trailer, and be housed on arrival within 24 hours, with choice of style and convenience in the new home.

This is commonplace in the USA because housing is treated as much as an essential commodity as a car or furnishings. Until we are able to adopt such flexibility in this country the problems expressed in your correspondent's letter (September 20) will continue to put us at a competitive disadvantage.

Yours faithfully,
J. H. WELLINGS,
55 Mount Avenue,
Ealing, W5,
September 20.

Animal tests

From Lord Houghton of Sowerby

Sir, Animal liberation, which Sir John Vane (September 10) sharply criticises (and in this he is by no means alone) engages the militant activities of the more resolute apostles of the relatively new doctrine of animal rights.

Sir John hopes to counter the growing demands for stricter controls by presenting the impressive catalogue of benefits to man and animals from the use of living things in laboratories. He is appealing to reason, though more and more this is becoming a moral issue which is as title open to argument as the Pope's stance on abortion.

What is happening is that human rights are becoming so fashionable and acceptable that they are spilling over to cover species other than ours. In the past, exploiters of slaves, conquered peoples, women and children, the illiterate and the disabled have seen their claims to be conferring economic and social benefit swept aside in the name of human rights.

I hold no brief for animal liberators or for violence of any kind, much as I respect the selfless courage of the sufferers for conscience. The unpleasant prospect is, however, clear to me. Unless Sir John and his fellow researchers will meet the weight of responsible, moderate opinion and accept controls and restrictions which will spare animals the worst excesses of pain and suffering, no matter for what purpose, they will encourage the acceleration of extremism.

That is the lesson taught by the history of social and ethical change but - alas! - so hard to learn.

Yours etc,
HOUGHTON OF SOWERBY
(Chairman,
Committee for Reform of Animal Experiments)
House of Lords,
September 13.

Draining the fishpond

From Lord Campbell of Croy

Sir, Your leading article on September 7 portrayed Gibraltar as being the major political problem for Britain in negotiations for Spain's accession to the European Economic Community. Five days later the article by Mr John Young described, opportunely, the other main problem: sea fisheries.

This fisheries issue should not be dismissed or overlooked as of secondary importance. Failure to recognise that it affects a vital British interest or to conclude a realistic agreement would store up great trouble for the future.

In working towards an agreement should not the negotiators give priority to the following principles? It would be taking unwarrantable risks to upset the common fisheries policy and its quota system, completed last year after strenuous negotiations over a long period by the present members of the EEC. A breakdown in the arrangements, intended to last for many years,

Bishop's pronouncement on the pits

From Professor Arthur Marwick

Sir, There could be no more convincing demonstration of the apathy of the Bishop of Durham's impressive invocation of the virtues of consensus and compromise and condemnation of the self-righteous intolerance of those who put themselves "in the place of God" than the petulant responses of those overgrown little boys who now populate the TUC benches.

Outraged that the bishop should dare to criticise their side, they ignore his explicit rejection of the "absolutism" of Mr Scargill and of the use of "civil violence for group ends".

Mr John Carlisle finds it "disgraceful" that the bishop should express "his own views", whose views, for Heaven's sake, should the bishop express? - no prizes for answering that one.

The impertinence of Mr Eldon Griffiths in associating working miners and working policemen with the policies of this intolerant, incompetent, and mendacious Government would be staggering, save that it has become all too familiar. And one knows that there is no hope of an expression of regret from Mr Nicholas Fairbairn for his incontinent and outrageous reference to the bishop's "worship" of "earthly gods like Arthur Scargill."

Would that "socialism" did mean, as Mr Fairbairn obviously takes it to mean, reasoned opposition to the follies of Thatcherism when, alas, it embraces the destructive absurdities of the likes of Mr Scargill and Mr Ken Livingstone - something very different from the policies of compromise advocated by the Bishop of Durham.

It is not difficult to identify the main areas in which the country has gone wrong since 1945; and certainly we have often suffered from the wrong kind of compromise. But the primacy now given to the essentially of competition and conflict by the bigots of the right and the idiots of the left is our biggest single problem today when, like soccer hooligans and with similar results, politicians and publicists prefer slogans to thought.

Cutting the losses

From Mr R. D. Poore

Sir, No one can surely view the situation now reached in the coal mines with equanimity.

The Prime Minister's position is easy to understand, since no government can allow a small section of the populace to achieve, or even appear to achieve, any result by violence.

Mr Scargill's position is also understandable, although hopelessly confused by political overtones, but he offers no solution other than subsidy of unproductive work at the taxpayers' expense.

Mr MacGregor's position is easy to understand, since no industry can countenance continued unproductive activity which it is the duty of management to remedy or terminate as soon as practicable.

However, Mr MacGregor's actions are constrained by the fact that the coal industry is nationalised, thus apparently denying him the opportunity of dealing with the

Nuclear threat

From Dr J. W. Arriens

Sir, In your leader of September 13 you state that Dr Owen "demands the scrapping of Trident, which would ultimately put a conventionally armed Britain at risk of unanswerable nuclear threat".

If this is so, we may ask ourselves how it is that nations on the Soviet Union's doorstep, such as Norway and Turkey or, even more pointedly, Japan, have managed to survive without an independent nuclear capability.

Because we have nuclear weapons and have not been subjected to nuclear threat, a spurious association is apt to be made between the two. The fact is that Britain

Soviet sea power

From Commander I. A. Scrymgeour-Wedderburn, RN (retd.)

Sir, I would not dare to argue the legal case with your correspondents Colonel Draper (September 6) and Mrs Elizabeth Young (September 15) about the rights or wrongs of the Soviet Navy in sending its aircraft carrier Kiev through the Bosphorus. But I would say the Kiev did not set a precedent.

In June, 1956, HMS Eagle, of which I was then the navigating officer and whose guise as an aircraft carrier was never in doubt, made the passage of the Bosphorus as far as Beikos Bay and back after a visit to Istanbul. Beikos Bay is where the Strait widens a few miles short of the Black Sea and was thought to be an

easy place to turn than off the Golden Horn.

I do not recall the Montreux Convention entering more than perfunctorily into the deliberations nor any subsequent adverse diplomatic reactions to Eagle's passage. I do remember, and I do not commend, the hazard of negotiating the narrow in a large ship against the Devil's Current, which in June reaches seven knots.

Perhaps, therefore, when the time comes, the Soviets will find the navigational problems of the Bosphorus place greater restraints on their new large nuclear-powered aircraft carrier than the Montreux Convention.

Yours faithfully,
IAN WEDDERBURN,
Dunlichity Lodge,
Farr, Inverness.

The belief in untrammelled privatisation is an art as is the belief in the magic of "socialism", and daftest of all is the conviction that consensus and compromise in politics add up to that dread concoction (actually invented by Mussolini) "corporatism".

The Bishop of Durham does well to remind us that real problems call for pragmatism and compromise, not the absolutes of invented abstractions and bigotry of party or group.

Yours etc,
ARTHUR MARWICK,
67 Fitzjohn's Avenue, NW3,
September 22.

From Mr Michael Burn

Sir, Someone not too clever should have a look at the Bishop of Durham's bricks before he drops the next one. His reference to Mr Ian MacGregor as "an imported elderly American" was bound, such is the world we live in and as most of the public could have told him, to obliterate what he had to say about reconciliation, add spite from the pulpit to a crisis replete with spite, and make people angrier or sadder about the coal dispute than they are already.

The Archbishop of Canterbury is reported to have remarked that the bishop "must say what he believes the Gospel requires him to say, speaking from his particular position in the North-east". But the epithet "elderly", from whatever position, was an unchristian sneer. Jesus did not sneer; nor did St Paul.

In its implication that those over a certain age are incapable, it was also supercilious and ignorant. Pope John XXIII, for example, who commanded the admiration of the world, was very elderly. Many men and women in many fields have been elderly when they did some of their greatest work. So have been millions of unimportant people, who have not been fools. So is

Yours etc,
MICHAEL BURN,
Beudy Gwyn,
Penrhyneddraeth, Gwynedd,
September 23.

problem by disposal rather than closure.

The last few years have seen many instances of large organisations selling small units which were found unprofitable frequently to the management or workforce concerned, whose subsequent lower overhead operation and more frugal attitude towards inessential expenditure have enabled them to succeed where the bigger organisation has failed.

Has the possibility of amending legislation been considered, to allow this opportunity to Mr MacGregor? The value to the Coal Board of the problem pits cannot be great, in fact it could be cheaper to pay a purchaser to take them.

Apart from managements and workforces, buyers could well appear from individual entrepreneurs; for example, has any one asked Mr Maxwell?

Yours faithfully,
DENNIS POORE,
1 Love Lane, EC2,
September 20.

happened to acquire nuclear weapons because it was at that time a leading military, economic and scientific power.

One suspects that if a decision had been taken at that time not to go nuclear (and recent evidence suggests it was a more close-run decision than previously realised), the same people who now cannot imagine Britain without its nuclear placebo would be the first to express outrage at the suggestion that we should now acquire it.

Yours faithfully,
J. W. ARRIENS,
Evergreen House,
10 West End,
Whitlifford,
Cambridge,
September 17.

easier place to turn than off the Golden Horn.

I do not recall the Montreux Convention entering more than perfunctorily into the deliberations nor any subsequent adverse diplomatic reactions to Eagle's passage. I do remember, and I do not commend, the hazard of negotiating the narrow in a large ship against the Devil's Current, which in June reaches seven knots.

Perhaps, therefore, when the time comes, the Soviets will find the navigational problems of the Bosphorus place greater restraints on their new large nuclear-powered aircraft carrier than the Montreux Convention.

Yours faithfully,
IAN WEDDERBURN,
Dunlichity Lodge,
Farr, Inverness.

which dislikes edicts from Madrid. "Helping to pacify the Basques", he suggested, might be a factor in negotiations.

I am impelled to add that about half of the British vessels which nowadays fish in EEC waters are from Scotland. This should be borne in mind, too. Although we in Scotland do not yet have to be pacified the situations are not entirely dissimilar. Most of these Scottish boats are as technologically advanced and deep-sea-worthy as the Spanish vessels described by Mr Young.

This last point illustrates the overriding need for orderly arrangements agreed in good time. The efficiency of modern methods means that large quantities of fish can today be caught by comparatively few boats. The stocks need protection.

Yours faithfully,
CAMPBELL OF CROY,
Holme Rose,
Nairnshire,
Scotland.

Gallery extension overstretched

From Sir James Richards

Sir, The Secretary of State has rejected the design for the National Gallery extension. He should go further and forthwith discard the notion of combining it and a property developer's office block in the same building.

To do so was an unworthy decision in the first place: neither a civilized nor a dignified means of housing our national art collection nor, as has been shown, one that gave any of the architects that attempted it a chance of producing a building worthy of its situation.

Yours faithfully,
J. M. RICHARDS,
29 Fawcett Street, SW10,
September 21.

Asbestos hazards

From the Chief Executive of the London Borough of Brent

Sir, I would question the statements made by your correspondent J. C. Gilsen (September 17) referring to the action taken on asbestos pollution in the London Borough of Brent following the Cricklewood fire.

Many experts have expressed grave concern at dangers from asbestos and a report going to the next meeting of the Council's Policy and Resources Committee will state quite clearly that "The debris could represent a health hazard, particularly to children if they break it and fibres enter the respiratory tract."

The residue over a number of years would break down and release fibres into the atmosphere. This would expose people who would normally come into contact with the material to asbestos in excess of normal background level.

Dr Gilsen also makes reference to a recently published Ontario Royal Commission report and seems to assume that the findings have allayed public concern.

This may not be so. The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation showed a very close interest in the Brent situation this month and their TV cameras took film back to Ontario for transmission on the French-language broadcast programmes.

The debris must be contained and until any such substance is proved to be innocuous it is the duty of a responsible local authority to take whatever measures it feels to be necessary.

I am pleased Brent acted so promptly on this occasion and allayed rather than increased public fears.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL BICHARD,
Chief Executive,
London Borough of Brent,
Brent Town Hall,
Forty Lane,
Wembley,
Middlesex,
September 21.

Travel impasse

From Mr J. Hall

Sir, My tall, 15-year-old daughter has recently acquired a Greater Manchester Transport bus pass to enable her to justify travelling at half fare. It is backed by a photograph and school and parental signatures. However, it carries no weight in London where, last weekend, she was made to pay full fares despite producing it.

Could there not be some fraternal mutual recognition of such documents or do teenagers have to carry a separate pass for each city they visit?

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN HALL,
601 The Royal Exchange,
Manchester,
September 11.

Flying the flag

From Mr B. Madden

Sir, If the corporate image of British Airways is now in need of renewal (Daily, September 11) it hardly seems appropriate that our national airlines should be restyled by a large American-owned design group. Surely a government promoting excellent British design as good for business would agree.

Could BA now be persuaded to have the job done by one of our many renowned design consultants? We may then fly the flag with pride.

Yours faithfully,
B. MADDEN,
Beaconsfield Cottage,
25 Church Lane,
Deansanger,
Milton Keynes,
Buckinghamshire,
September 19.

Food of love

From the President of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra

Sir, Concert reviews only rarely mention the audience. Without whom the artist would yet be as a fish without water. Therefore, we would like to use this way, via your great London newspaper, to express to the friends of the Proms our thanks from the concert podium: to play for you was a truly special experience for us. The tension created by this mutual attraction cannot be expressed in millions of volts.

As an audience, you are a phenomenon: you have overpowered us with your contagious joy and your enthusiasm, your love and attention for the music and your discipline (can it be that among so many thousands of people nobody coughs?) and your affection.

It was sheer pleasure to play for you and we hope to meet you again. You applauded us - we fell in love with you.

Yours sincerely,
ALFRED ALTENBURGER,
President,
Der Wiener Philharmoniker,
Bosendorferstrasse 12,
A-1010 Wien,
September 17.

Recovery from recession is well underway but developing countries still face severe debt problems. *The Times* staff correspondents analyse the state of the world economy on the opening day of the thirty-ninth annual meeting of the IMF and World Bank in Washington.

World banking

\$ The surprisingly strong recovery in the world economy over the past year at least provides a reassuring backdrop for the thirty-ninth annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, which opens formally today in Washington.

It is the biggest and most important international gathering in the financial calendar. Finance ministers and officials rub shoulders in the lushly-carpeted corridors of the IMF's Washington headquarters while a host of senior bankers circulate and confer on the fringes of the formal events.

The meeting provides an unrivalled opportunity to discuss economic issues affecting the world economy and financial system and is also the forum for determining policy on the IMF and its sister organization, the World Bank.

There are still many dangers and uncertainties facing the world economy, not least the debt problems of the developing countries. But the picture confronting finance ministers is in many ways more encouraging

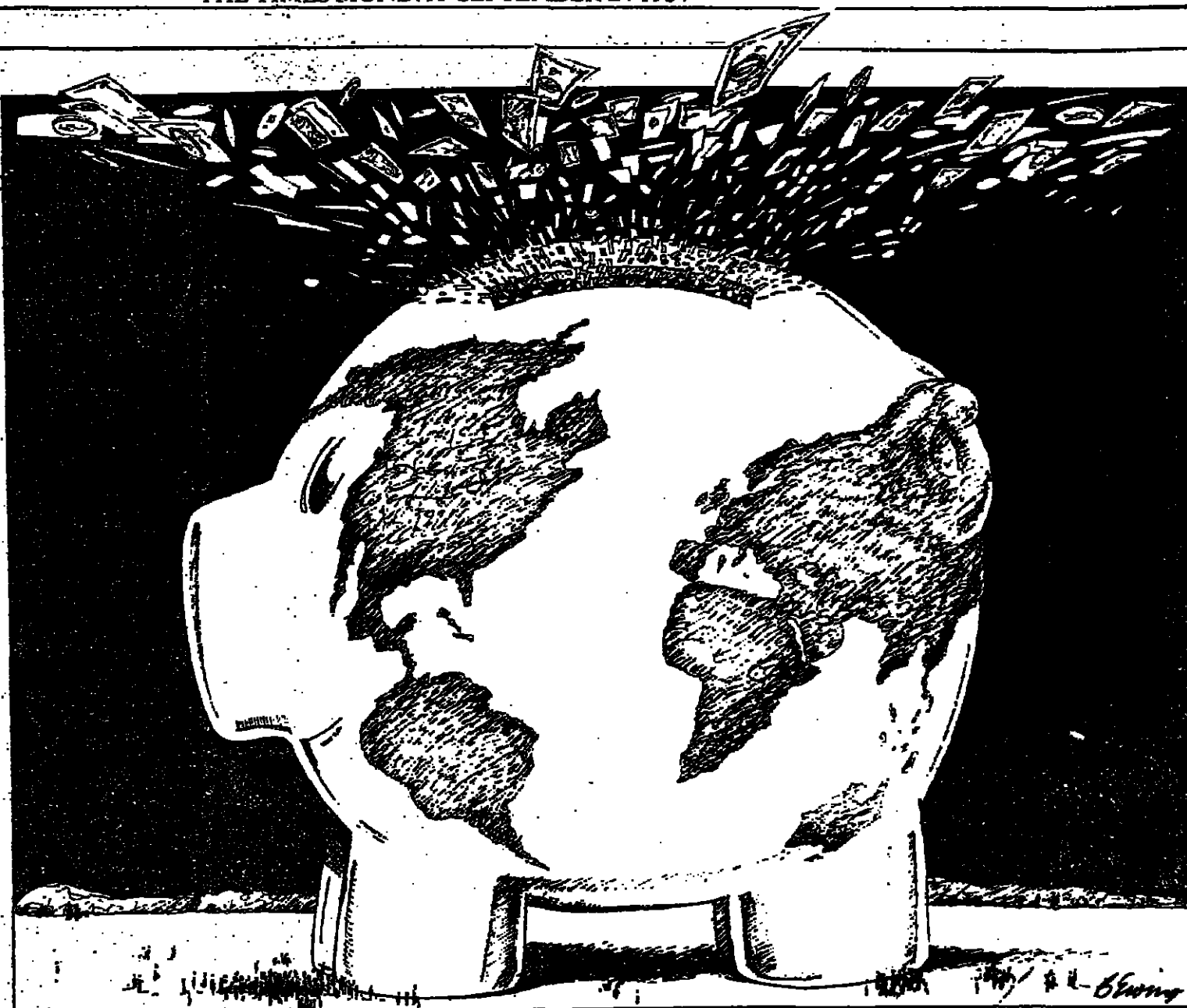
than they would have dared to hope a year ago.

First, the recovery from the worst global recession for fifty years is firmly under way and has been gathering pace. The IMF, for instance, has just revised sharply upwards its forecasts for growth in the big industrialized countries this year from about 3.5 per cent to more than 5 per cent, and is expecting steady progress next year.

Inflation, the chronic problem of the 1970s, also appears to have been checked and shows no incipient signs of reigniting. Inflation in the big Western economies is down to under 3 per cent, the lowest level for 15 years.

Admittedly, the recovery has been patchy. The performance of the European economies has been very sluggish compared with the rapid expansion in the US, which has led the world out of recession. But growth in Europe has at least resumed, even if too slowly to have an impact on the large numbers of unemployed.

In the developing world, still labouring under a huge mountain of debt, now estimated at about \$806bn (£615bn), and the



painful burden of servicing it, there has also been considerable progress. The cost has been high in terms of internal adjustment, and falling living standards.

The current account deficits of the non-oil developing countries fell from a peak of \$109bn in 1981 to \$56bn in 1983 and a projected \$45bn this year, in large part because of the unwillingness of the banking system to continue financing these deficits on such a large scale.

However this external correction has been achieved without the debtor countries forming cartels and simply refusing to repay, as some feared would happen. Instead, the case-by-case approach to the problems of the debtor countries has so far managed to persuade most of the biggest borrowers (for instance, Mexico, owing about \$90bn, and Brazil, with \$93bn of debts) that it is in their interests to stay within the system.

deal agreed in principle for Mexico this month marks a further important advance in the piecemeal strategy which has evolved to cope with the debt crisis. Multi-year reschedulings were endorsed by Western leaders at the June economic summit in London, with the aim of rewarding debtors which had undertaken tough IMF austerity programmes to put their economies on a sounder footing.

Under the Mexican deal, yet to be approved by all the 550 creditor banks, \$48.7bn, or more than half of Mexico's debt, will be stretched out over 14 years and there are a number of other concessions, including lower interest margins on the debt.

At this week's meeting in Washington the Mexican deal will be held up by finance ministers as an example of the success of the present approach to the debt crisis. Together with rosier forecasts of world economic growth, it will help to

confirm the views of those who believe that a judicious combination of adjustment by debtor countries, combined with new financing, stretching out of their debts to ease the immediate repayment burden and recovery in their exports to the industrial world, provide the basis for the resolution of the debt crisis.

However, this optimistic view is by no means well based and there is still concern that the progress achieved so far could unwind if a number of key assumptions prove unfounded.

Improving the economic performance in the developing countries is one of the most pressing objectives of international economic policy," the IMF emphasizes in its annual report, pointing to the sharp erosions in living standards which many developing countries have suffered as the price for improving their external accounts.

However, this improved econ-

omic performance can only be achieved, the IMF says, if the recovery of industrial countries can be "sustained and broadened" and if "the heavy burden of debt service faced by many borrowing countries can be handled satisfactorily".

The problem of sustaining the recovery will figure prominently in this week's discussions among finance ministers. High US interest rates and the extraordinary strength of the dollar, both of which have pushed up the debt servicing burden of borrowing countries, will be at the forefront of people's minds and there will be the usual oblique criticism of the US budget deficit. The dangers of protectionism and access to industrial markets for third world exports will also be touched upon.

The problems of the poorest developing countries are receiving increased attention this year. There has been a growing realization that the plight of

areas such as sub-Saharan Africa has been overlooked while attention has been directed to the big debtor countries which pose a threat to the stability of the world banking system.

The difficulties of the African continent, aggravated by drought, were high on the agenda of the IMF World Bank development committee which met yesterday. A number of ideas are being floated for tackling the problem, including the controversial one of a special fund for Africa.

For the more advanced developing countries, which include the largest debtors, any policy prescriptions to emerge from this week's meeting will be very much along the lines of "more of the same". There is a fairly widely-shared feeling among the big industrialized countries that the flow of official finance needs to be stepped up because developing countries became too dependent on commercial bank loans in the 1970s.

Some, including the British, are keen to see more conditional lending by the World Bank, which takes a longer perspective than the IMF. But the general feeling is that the present approach to debt crisis is working well and eventually, once restored to health, the big borrowers will be able to resume borrowing in the private markets.

There are many, of course, especially within the developing world, who do not share this view and believe that Western governments must play a much bigger part in helping to solve the crisis. They argue that the degree of adjustment being forced on developing countries is excessive and unproductive and should be tempered by a much increased flow of financing which the private banking system is no longer willing to provide.

The recent Commonwealth Secretariat report, *The Debt Crisis and the World Economy*, drawn up by a team headed by Lord Lever, encapsulated this view. It called for a greatly stepped-up official role and concluded with a warning: "The present situation is not sustainable. The world's financial safety is balanced on a knife edge. The greatest immediate danger of disruption is posed by the risk that interest will not be paid on the existing debts of the major developing country borrowers."

Peter Wilson-Smith
Banking Correspondent

GROWTH IN THE THIRD WORLD					
	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
ALL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES	4.8	3.5	1.2	0.2	0.8
Africa (excl Sth Africa)	2.2	3.0	1.8	1.2	0.1
Asia	4.7	5.4	5.1	4.5	6.5
Europe*	3.9	1.5	2.3	2.4	0.6
Middle East	4.3	6.8	5.4	3.4	4.2
Latin America and Caribbean	6.7	6.1	0.2	-1.6	-2.3

*Cyprus, Faroe Islands, Gibraltar, Greece, Hungary, Malta, Portugal, Romania, Turkey, Yugoslavia

Source: IMF

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Today boom tomorrow gloom: the US anxiety

On the eve of the presidential election, the American economy is being hailed as a post-war miracle. A plethora of studies in recent weeks has given the US credit for pulling the rest of the world out of the deepest recession since the 1930s. The economic growth has confounded economists and led most forecasters to revise upwards their projections for 1984. The IMF has put US growth at more than 7 per cent for 1984, up from its earlier forecast of 5 per cent. The independent US congressional budget office now expects growth of 6.6 per cent for the year and the Federal Reserve Board, which acts as the central bank, has estimated growth at 6.6 per cent, with inflation around 4 per cent and unemployment dropping.

As a result, world growth has also been revised upwards. Growth for all industrial countries this year was projected at almost 5 per cent, up from 3.5 per cent in 1983. For non-oil developing nations, it was put at 3.75 per cent this year and 4.25 per cent in 1985, up from a dismal 1.75 per cent last year.

The surprisingly strong boom, after the bust of the 1982 global recession, led IMF officials to declare that the worst of the debt crisis was over. They said readjustment in developing countries "was ahead of schedule".

Engine of growth

The Washington-based Institute for International Economics went further. It said even the recent rise in interest rates could dampen the effects of the extra export earnings generated by the powerful engine of US growth.

The mood in the West is bordering on euphoria. But looking beyond the immediate period the view is less clear. There is strong concern that the US is in the midst of a classic, Keynesian, deficit-driven boom which cannot last. Some respected economists say the outlook beyond 1984 is so bleak that another steep recession is to be expected.

"Warning signals are flashing everywhere," said Paul Volcker, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, in recent congressional testimony.

He cited the "unacceptably high budget deficits", projected at \$172bn (about £132bn) this year and up to \$263bn by 1989; the US merchandise trade deficit, which is expected to



Foreign capital is flooding into the US, some of it in the form of direct investment, as in Nissan's car plant at Smyrna, Tennessee

double to a record \$120bn this year, rising interest rates; and the destabilizing effects of the erratic, overvalued dollar.

The harder the dollar falls, the greater is the risk of pushing up the inflation rate in America, which is now at its lowest level in 15 years.

Stephen Marris, a senior fellow at the Institute, said at a recent seminar on the US economy that the dollar would have to depreciate by 35 per cent to put the current account deficit back into equilibrium.

Inevitably, the blame for the discomfiting combination of deficits, overvalued dollars and high interest rates was being attributed to US fiscal policies, which have produced an unprecedented structural budget imbalance.

To pay for the deficit, the US is importing huge amounts of capital from abroad. A continuation of this trend will make it the largest debtor nation, in the opinion of Mr Volcker and C. Fred Bergsten, former assistant secretary of the US treasury, who heads the institute.

"By 1986, the United States will clearly owe more to foreign nations than the value of its investments abroad, becoming a net debtor nation for the first time since World War I and approaching the present debt level of Mexico and Brazil in absolute terms", Mr Bergsten told a Senate banking committee.

Mr Marris, who was until last year economic adviser to the secretary general of the Paris-based OECD, said the record inflow of foreign savings had a positive effect on the US economy over the short term but a negative one over the long term.

"My calculations suggest that as long as the dollar remains at its present level, the US current account deficit, and the inflow of foreign capital needed to finance it, would go on rising rapidly, reaching perhaps \$200bn or 4 per cent of gnp by 1989", he said.

For this to be sustained, foreigners will have to be willing to increase their net claims on the US by an estimated \$700bn to \$850bn over the same period.

Clearly, a savings shift of this magnitude is not sustainable. On this point, the IMF and most respected economists agree.

Record deficits

How long can it go on? The answer is unclear. Mr Marris, however, has ventured a guess that the day of reckoning will occur by the end of next year. Others, IMF officials included, say it will be some time between now and 1989.

It is generally agreed that the reckoning will occur no matter who wins the presidential election in November. Although President Reagan's policies are expected to be sharply different from those of Walter Mondale, his Democratic challenger, neither can escape the realities associated with the record deficits.

The question is whether it will be a "soft-landing", in the form of much slower growth and rising unemployment, or a "crash-landing".

Mr Mondale has stated his intention, if elected, to reduce the projected deficits by two thirds in 1989 through a combination of spending cuts and tax increases which would fall most heavily on the wealthy.

Waging the trade fight but with little success

Ten months ago the Geneva-based General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) admitted that its original purpose had "almost been lost".

The world trade regulatory body had been forced to surrender much of its credibility and authority to the increasing number of protectionist measures taken by the very governments which it was designed to strengthen against "particularist pressures emanating from national economies".

It requested that a "new joint initiative" be taken by those governments to rescue its position - knowing full well that Europe and the US were at each other's throats over trade issues, and that everyone was up in arms about "the Japanese problem".

In October last year, a month before GATT sent out its distress message, George Vest, US Ambassador to the EEC, had given evidence to a Senate subcommittee. He said: "Our economic relations with Europe are as turbulent as I can remember them in nearly 30 years that I have been associated with European affairs."

A week later in New York Piet Dankert, president of the European Parliament, said that "the US is threatening us with a trade war" in agriculture.

Today, although much of the tension remains, the international slugging matches have substantially disappeared. The Western summits have had much to do with reducing friction.

However, the summits will increasingly look like meetings of an elitist club unless more nations are brought into the debate.

This can only really be done through GATT. It is encouraging to see that many countries are at last starting to think about

putting a date on a new round of GATT talks - to continue the work programme agreed, under considerably easier economic circumstances, in the Kennedy and Tokyo Rounds of the 1960s and 1970s.

Another pressing task in the next 12 months is to decide what will replace the present Multi-Fibre Arrangement (MFA). A "temporary" measure adopted more than 20 years ago, to protect textiles and clothing manufacturers in the West from infant producers in the third world, it expires in 1986.

Agreeing an agenda for a new international trade summit for GATT's 90 signatory nations will be a tortuous process. It will be made that much more difficult by the extremely patchy recovery of world trade during the past two years. In both geographical and industrial sector terms.

Arthur Dunkel, GATT's director-general, has long been cautioning the US not to push too hard to widen the rules governing international trade to include services and technology. The developing countries are highly suspicious of American motives. They see precious little profit in opening either door, a view shared by several of the more advanced nations in relation to services.

National studies

Britain (with the City of London's interests at heart) and the US are among a handful of countries which this year submitted national studies of their "invisible" sectors to GATT - as all countries have been asked to do. The fact that West Germany, for instance, is still among the absentees means that a new "GATT for services" is an extremely long way off.

Faced with an overall trade deficit that is likely to be as high as \$120bn (about £92bn) this year, the US Commerce Department remains concerned about what it describes as the "narrowing of the US technological advantage that was the foundation of US export capability".

It is particularly anxious about the way in which imports of manufactured goods have been growing, a trend highlighted by America's increasing trade deficit on communications equipment and electronic components. This rose from almost \$3bn in 1980 to \$8bn last year.

Much American attention has been focussed upon the Japanese as a source of high technology goods. However,

these exporters which appear to be making more significant inroads are the so-called newly industrialized countries (NICs) of Hong Kong, South Korea, Singapore and Taiwan.

Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Japanese Prime Minister, has been even more positive than the US in calling for a new GATT round, which he did in June.

Europe's approach is much more cautious. The EEC wants to see more progress on completing the commitments made during the Tokyo Round before embarking on new talks. In this respect, it echoes the sentiments of most developing countries, which have been pressing for a completion of the programme agreed at the GATT ministerial meeting in 1982.

Rising tide

Though progress has been made during the past year - on subjects like sensitive technology exports to Eastern Europe and the use of America's "extraterritoriality" laws - huge problems remain. They include the EEC's agricultural export subsidies (which American farmers claim are robbing them of more than \$3bn worth of foreign sales a year), US curbs on steel imports and the deployment of highly subsidized export credits by advanced nations to steal Third World business from each other.

These have precious little chance of being resolved before 1986, the first date being suggested for a new GATT Round.

The chance of those talks succeeding, whenever they may take place, depends on two much wider issues: progress on Third World indebtedness and the level of world trade itself. Though there has been constant reference to the "rising tide of protectionism", a rising tide of trade is much more important.

In the short term, much depends on President Reagan's ability to deflect protectionist calls from more than 100 lobby groups in the run-up to the US election. GATT said in May that it expects world trade to grow in volume by 5 to 6 per cent this year, having achieved 2 per cent last year.

But it is not enough simply to keep that expansion going. It must be spread more fairly, particularly in the Third World and to more industries in all countries. Unless that happens, the prospects of global harmony, or even a semblance of it, must remain as distant as ever.

John Lawless

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Keeping abreast of the market on the Mexican stock exchange. The recent rescheduling of Mexico's debt marks an important new stage in dealing with such problems

Now cry for Argentina



The recent meeting of Latin American debtors in Mar del Plata, Argentina, a seaside resort about 250 miles outside Buenos Aires, came to a surprising end.

First, it finished with a remarkable degree of agreement between the participants and was notable for the lack of deep divisions so evident when the same grouping met three months earlier at Cartagena, Colombia.

Second, the proposals to emerge from the meeting were fairly moderate. The Latin American nations issued a call for direct political talks with Western creditor nations, although the US and Britain had voiced opposition to the idea. They also recommended increases in lending by the multilateral institutions such as the World Bank and IMF.

However, the lack of any open discussion about joint unilateral action suggests that, for the time being at least, the idea of debtors' cartels or a head-on confrontation with the international financial system has been firmly buried.

Bankers have long been aware that the key to any debtors' cartel in Latin America

towards a longer-term approach to debtors' difficulties.

Repayments on the \$48.7bn will be stretched out over 14 years, starting at \$1.9bn in 1985 and gradually rising to \$6.44bn in 1998. There are a number of other important concessions in the deal, including lower fees and interest margins.

The idea of multi-year reschedulings is to reward countries which have made progress in adjusting their economies according to the tough prescriptions of the IMF.

For the bankers it has also proved a useful way of isolating countries such as Argentina, which, whether because of intransigence or internal political problems, have delayed in reaching agreements with the fund.

It is no coincidence that bankers were eager to agree the framework of the Mexican deal before the Mar del Plata meeting and were prepared along the way to make some important concessions to Mexico. Brazil is due to begin similar negotiations with its bank creditors next month and bankers wanted to demonstrate to the two biggest debtors in Latin America that the pains of IMF-style economic adjustment were not without their rewards.

The other important reason why Brazil and Mexico would have much to lose at this stage from joint action with other Latin American debtors is that their economies are beginning to turn the corner.

The recession in Latin America during the last few years has been the severest for fifty years. Many countries have seen dramatic declines in output and employment. For the region as a whole, output per head has been falling for three years, dropping by 6 per cent in 1983 alone.

To continue paying interest on their huge debts when export earnings were declining and real interest rates were persistently high, Latin American countries have been forced to adjust very rapidly, principally by slashing imports. According to the World Bank, the region moved from a trade deficit of \$1.6bn in 1981 to an "unprecedented" surplus of \$31.2bn in 1983.

Since 1981 16 of the 28 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean have undertaken IMF programmes, and 14 have had formal rescheduling agreements, with more to follow.

Brazil and Mexico have undergone this process at great internal cost but there are signs that, helped by a pick-up in

exports, recovery is gradually beginning.

The problem ahead for Brazil and Mexico is how to return to levels of growth which will

LATIN AMERICA and CARIBBEAN				
Output per capita (annual average change %)				
1960-70	1970-79	1980	1981	1982
2.8	3.4	2.7	-3.0	-3.5

Source: World Bank

allow for improving living standards for growing populations. Growth in industrial countries, access to their markets, the level of interest rates and, of course, internal policies are all crucial. But the biggest difficulty may well be in attracting the required levels of external finance.

Peter Wilson-Smith

New loan methods yet tensions linger

On the face of it, these have been tough times in the bond and credit markets. Bonds have vied with remorselessly rising interest rates, particularly in dollars. Issuers and borrowers have resorted to ever more ingenious devices to keep custom.

Nor have syndicated credits enjoyed an easy ride. With the exception of some major rescheduling deals, notably the recent rearrangement of Mexico's foreign borrowings, banks have been reluctant to make new money available to developing countries.

Just as swelling company profits and strong equity markets have made financing less necessary for corporate borrowers, so the banks have found fewer companies in need of debt finance. In the circumstances, spreads have narrowed.

And yet, the statistics would suggest that business has never been better in either the bond or the credit market. According to Morgan Guaranty, total international bond issues last year had a par value of \$76.32bn (about £58bn) only a little short of 1982's record \$78.04bn. In the first half of this year, moreover, issues ran at \$50.39bn, some \$10bn more than in the same period of 1983.

Eurocurrency bank credits have performed equally strongly. After dropping by about \$11bn last year to \$74.21bn, the volume jumped again in the

opening six months of 1984. Credits amounted to \$68.99bn, way above the \$42.5bn recorded for the first half of 1983. Market sources say that this brisk progress is being maintained in bonds and credits.

So how is the apparent discrepancy between market conditions and actual business to be explained? The first point is that it is easy only to look at the negative factors - a sport to which the Euromarkets are much given. Take the critical instance of high interest rates.

Higher rates mean lower bond prices, of course. But the capital loss affects only existing paper. The issue price of new bonds can be adjusted to take prevailing and anticipated interest rates into account. Similar principles apply to currency movements.

Second, various technical devices may be employed to make an issue more attractive. One of the most popular has been the floating rate note (FRN), which enjoyed a vogue around the turn of the year. It has the merit of keeping the bond's capital value in line with interest rate movements.

As the year progressed, the normal zero-coupon bond - which does not bear interest but which is issued at a substantial discount to par value instead - fell out of favour, as did bonds with warrants, convertible into equity. The limelight instead was focused on the US Treasury and the antics of some of Wall Street's most distinguished issuing houses.

The catalyst was the decision by Congress to abolish the 30 per cent withholding tax which had previously been payable by foreign holders of US government securities. The idea was to put the US Government's debt on the same footing as the Eurobond market, where interest is paid gross.

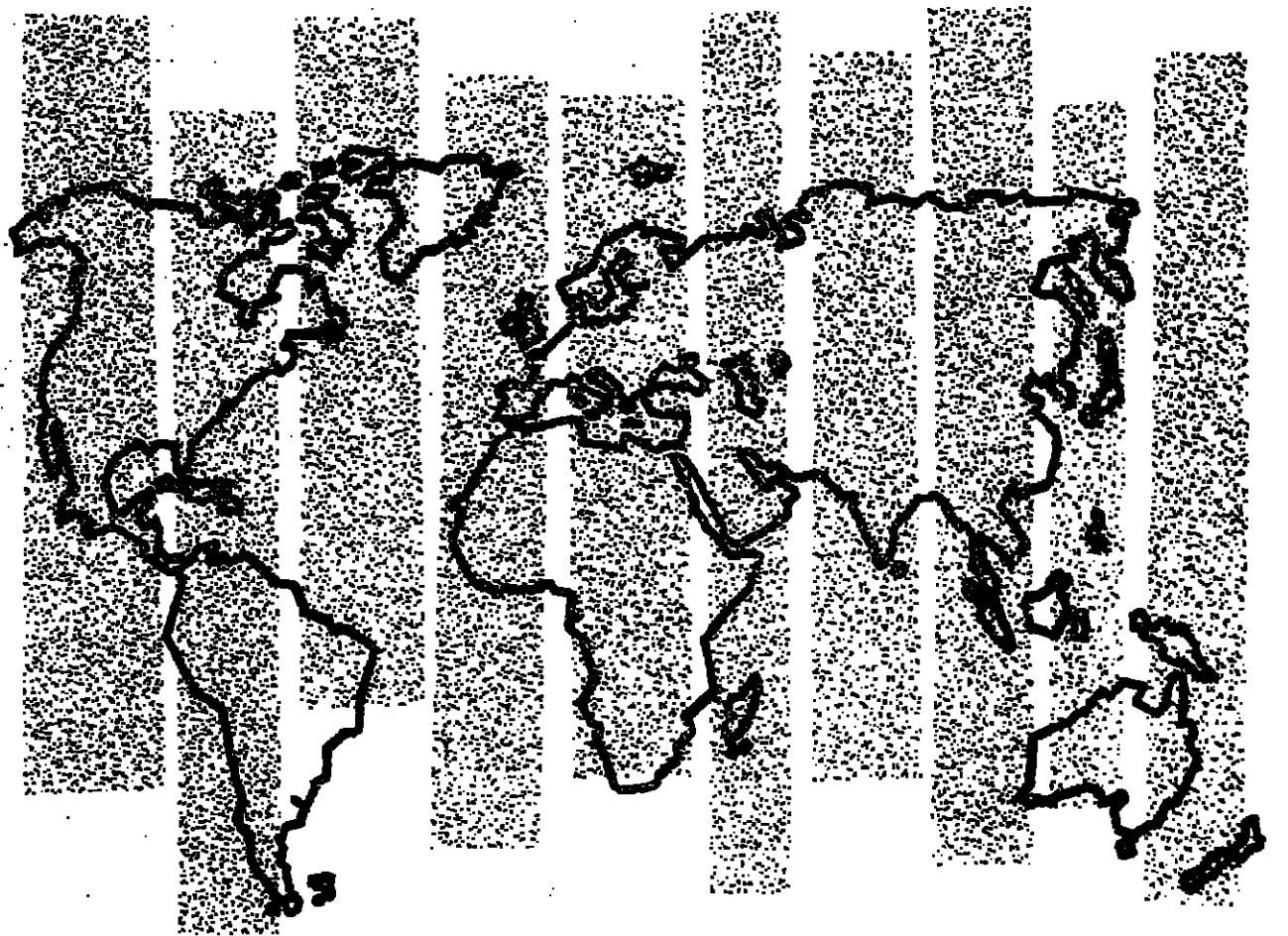
But the big New York bond houses, long envious of Europe's domination of this huge market, hoped to corner more business and the US Treasury wanted extra funding for its budget deficit and its \$100bn balance of payments deficit.

Strange animals

The problem, however, was that the Eurobond market is anonymous, whereas the owner of US government securities had to be registered for tax purposes. Salomon Brothers, the big Wall Street investment bankers, tried to satisfy this demand by purchasing no less than \$1.7bn of bonds at a Treasury auction and repackaging them as "Certificates of Accrual on Treasury Securities" - immediately dubbed CATS. But the Treasury took a dim view of this and substituted its own four-year security, aimed at shy foreigners.

While such strange animals were diverting the bond market, the banks were grappling with the debt crisis. Since high interest rates sucked in deposits, and because a large part of the developing world was cut off from credit by the crisis, other borrowers found that spreads fell. So major credit-worthy borrowers such as Ireland and Quebec Hydro were able to renegotiate their borrowing costs.

Michael Prest
International Financial Correspondent



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LATIN AMERICA'S DEBTS

	(\$bn)
Argentina	43,600
Brazil	39,000
Chile	17,900
Colombia	11,800
Costa Rica	4,100
Ecuador	6,800
Mexico	89,000
Peru	11,800
Uruguay	4,200
Venezuela	34,000

Source: bankers' estimates

would be the participation of Brazil and Mexico. Between them they account for more than half of the continent's total external debt of about \$350bn (£270bn).

But while the idea of unilateral action has been discussed at some stage by their governments, both countries are keenly aware of the crippling economic consequences of such action and recent developments have given them an extra incentive to continue along their present paths.

The recent multi-year rescheduling deal agreed in principle for Mexico and covering \$48.7bn, or more than half its total debt, is one key incentive. The deal marks an important move away from dealing with the immediate problems



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The IMF's handling of the global debt crisis which erupted in 1982 has been generally applauded. It deserved much of the credit for the innovative financial packages which prevented the largest debtor nations, including Mexico and Brazil, from sinking.

In its annual report released before the annual meeting, the IMF said that from January, 1983 to April, 1984 \$94bn (about £72bn) of bank debt of 17 Third World members had been rescheduled. This

could not have happened without "an unprecedented degree of cooperation" among banks, debtors, national and international agencies, the IMF said.

The global debt crisis, while still serious, has moved as a result of this cooperation into a more manageable stage. The gameplan, as articulated by M de Larosière and Paul Volcker, the US central bank chairman, is clear.

Countries which have stayed with IMF-dictated austerity programmes through the political turbulence of the global recession will be rewarded on a case-by-case basis with longer

repayment periods and better terms on their outstanding loans.

The strategy will continue to require heavy lending by the IMF but under M de Larosière, in the face of strong opposition, the agency has succeeded in pushing through a new quota increase for members which raised its resources from SDR89.2bn (about £53bn) - SDRs are the IMF's reserve asset - from the previous level of SDR61.1bn.

At the end of the IMF's latest fiscal year, which ended in April, total outstanding lending was a record SDR31.7bn to 84 countries,

up from SDR23.6bn to 85 countries a year earlier.

During the same period, debtor nations, surprisingly, moved ahead of schedule in their adjustment efforts and world growth exceeded expectations, due largely to the spectacular recovery in the US.

On the eve of its annual meeting with the World Bank, the IMF's tone was upbeat and its message optimistic.

However, a growing number of critics say the fund's tone is too optimistic and that its managing director too intractable. People are worried that M. de Larosière's

single-minded pursuit of the fight against inflation has led to a rigid set of policies which are generating growing political unrest in debtor nations. There is also concern that the IMF has put insufficient pressure on the United States to reduce its record budget deficits.

For these reasons and others, the future roles of the World Bank and the IMF are topics of growing debate. Are they, as presently constituted, up to the task of guiding the world economy through the next critical six years when another recession is thought likely and the bulk of repayments of the world's

\$600bn debt falls due? Or should both institutions be given greater power over world-term balance of payments assistance and, in the case of the IMF, a strengthened surveillance role over the policies of rich and poor nations?

These questions are being raised during a period of renewed criticism by Latin American nations of the IMF's case-by-case approach to the debt crisis. These countries argue that this calls for a broader, multilateral programme of support from developed countries, given the recent rise in interest rates.

At the Versailles economic summit of Western nations and again at the summit at Williamsburg, Virginia, Western leaders created a multilateral surveillance programme under which they consulted with the IMF on economic policies and were rated on their progress.

In terms of fighting world inflation, the system has worked well. For his work during his first five-year term, which was renewed in May, 1983, M de Larosière deserves much of the credit.

In the broader area of coordinating fiscal and monetary policies, the IMF has been less successful, partly because the United States has tended to ignore its advice.

Bailey Morris

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Clausen and the Reagan problem



There has been a lot of soul-searching recently at the World Bank. After four decades in which the world's biggest aid agency and one of the most influential participants in financial markets has enjoyed immense prestige it suddenly feels on the defensive. How the bank restores its self-confidence and changes direction will be of great importance for hundreds of millions of the poorest people around the globe. A combination of three factors has led to the most uncertain period in the bank since its formation in 1945: the public suspicion and even hostility of the Reagan Administration; the setback over funding for the seventh replenishment of the International Development Association, the arm of the bank which lends on highly concessional terms to the poorest countries; and the economic crisis in many Third World countries, which has caused the bank to reassess its traditional lending policies.

Of these, the new mood in Washington has probably created the most discomfort. Although the bank did not always enjoy a smooth ride, particularly from Congress, learning to live with an administration some of whose supporters query the value of large-scale multilateral lending to developing countries has been painful.

The US, with 25 per cent of the votes at the World Bank, is still far and away the biggest shareholder and hence subscriber of funds among the 147 member countries. All the bank's six presidents have been

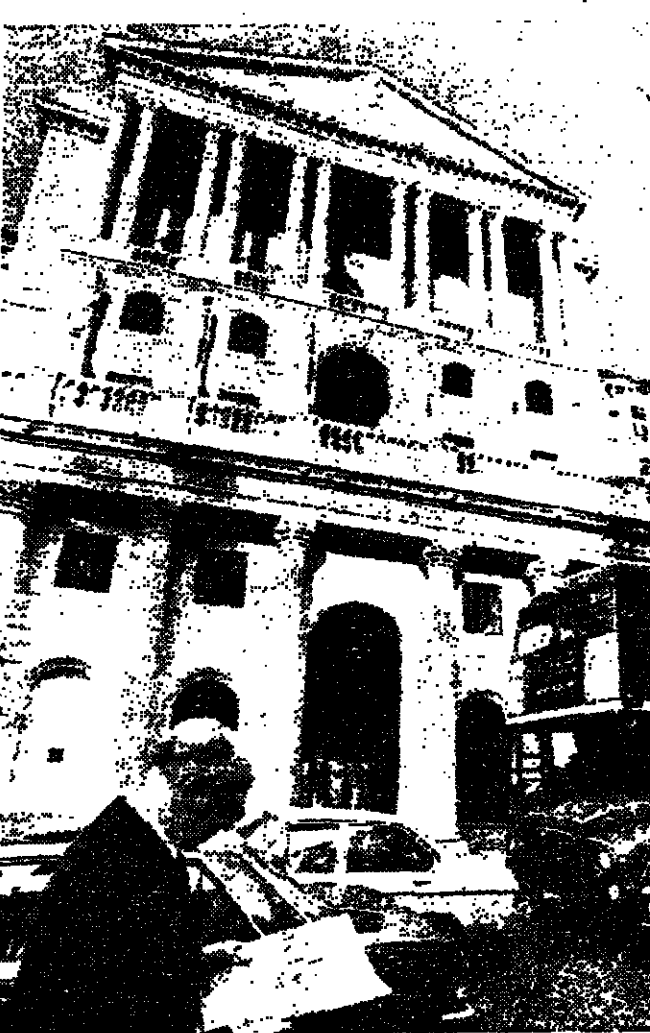
American, and the present incumbent, A W "Tom" Clausen, was selected as a conservative and reliable banker. It is a sign of how the atmosphere has changed that administration sources have in recent weeks made plain their misgivings that Mr Clausen appears to have "gone native" and is being too soft on the bank's customers. Washington has buzzed with rumours that he will resign, or that the US will not support him for a second term when the present one expires in 1986.

The prospect of President Reagan being re-elected in November fills some bank officials with gloom. They may make light of right-wing Washington charges that they do too little to support private enterprise and investment in developing countries, or that the World Bank supports America's Communist enemies. However, the rebuff over IDA 7 has brought the message home.

The American Administration had already dragged its feet over subscribing fully to IDA 8, but when the bank intimated that it wanted IDA 6's \$12 bn (about £9.23 bn) increased to a minimum of \$16bn over three years (to allow for inflation and China's joining the bank), and preferably to nearer \$20 bn, the US dug its heels in.

In the event IDA 7 was only \$9 bn, and an attempt led by Britain and France to put together a \$3 bn supplementary fund excluding the US seems to have collapsed in the face of West German and Japanese opposition.

For an institution which has been accustomed to talking to governments on equal terms it was a severe blow. More important, it cut at the roots of



The latest news beneath the facade of the Bank of England. Britain and France have apparently failed to create a supplementary fund for the World Bank's soft-loan arm

short-term. The scale of the debt crisis appeared overwhelming, but even if the bank could mobilize the funds it had a severe diplomatic problem: liquidity and balance of payments support is the province of its sister organization, the IMF.

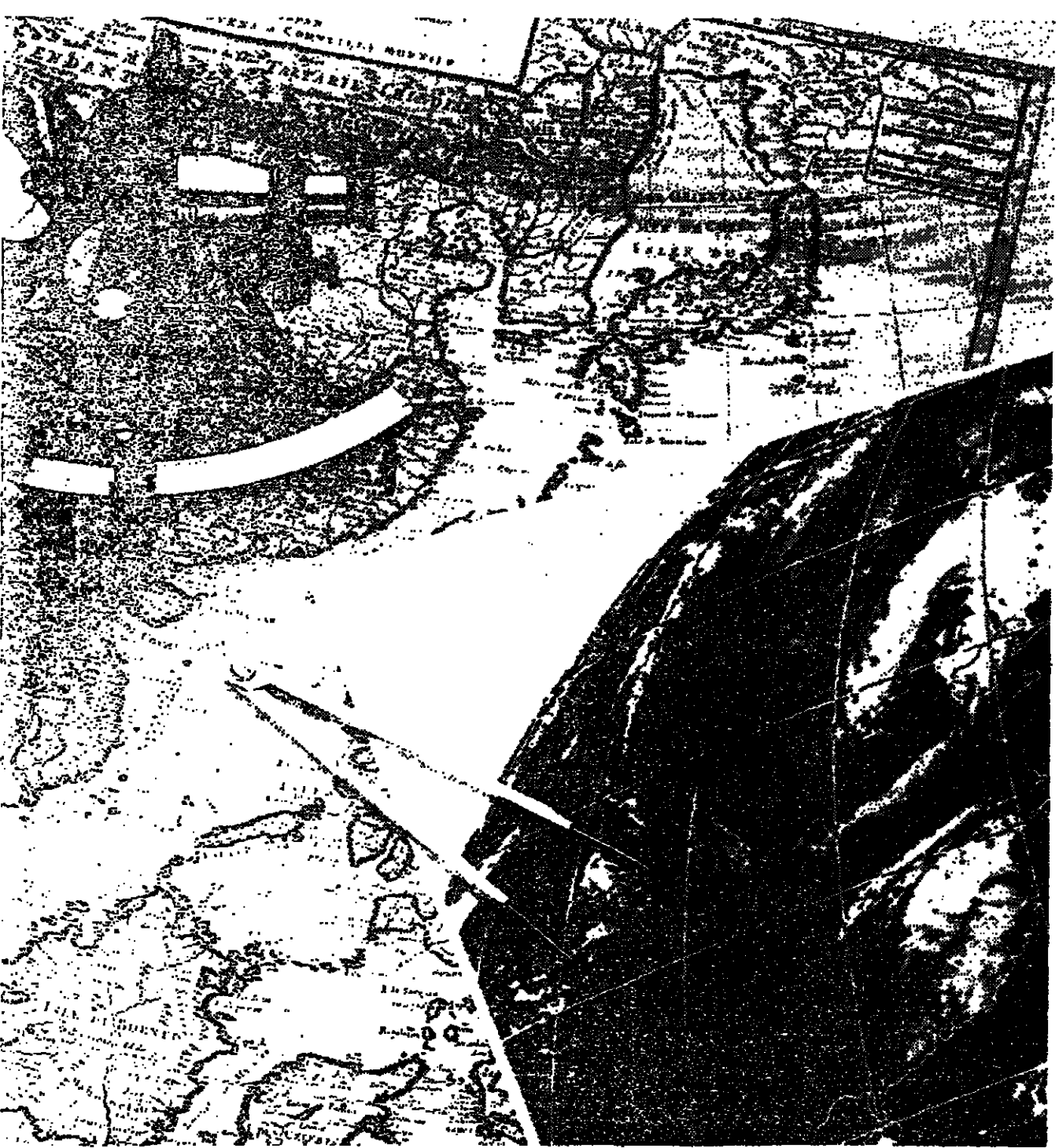
The bank has adopted two solutions. It is making funds available for structural adjustment, both by direct lending and in financing projects and providing advice aimed specifically, say, at relieving balance of payments pressure. A rough target of 10 per cent of total lending has been set for financing other than projects.

The second approach has been co-financing. The idea, partly to mollify the Reaganites, is to draw commercial banks into World Bank projects by using the credit rating of the bank to underwrite repayments. The bank will take on contingent liabilities and risks, thereby extending the maturity and quantity of lending beyond what commercial banks might otherwise provide.

All of these schemes, however, are rather tentative and they await the outcome of a huge re-appraisal being undertaken by several different task forces within the bank. A new report on Africa - the third in almost as many years - will support the bank's argument for a capital increase next year.

The status of the World Bank is assured by its sheer size. In the last financial year it lent \$11.95 bn and the IDA provided another \$3.58 bn. It borrowed a massive \$9.83 bn and, despite high international interest rates, managed to keep its lending cost down to 9.89 per cent.

Michael Prest



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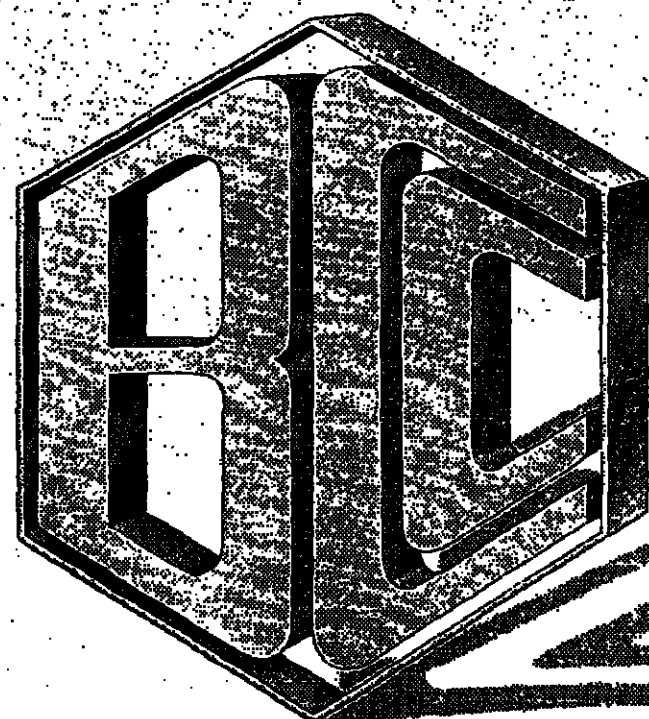
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Base Lending Rates

THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Lenders under fire from all sides

Lewis Namier defined the reasons why international institutions fail: the impartial are not interested, and the interested are not impartial. When money is involved, disinterested participation is an even rarer commodity - which makes it all the more remarkable that the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, those pillars of the postwar economic settlement, are still alive, exactly 40 years since their conception at Bretton Woods.

Alive and judging from superficial statistics, apparently thriving. The number of public and private bankers, ministers, officials and journalists attending the annual meetings of the IMF and the World Bank this week has swollen to 12,000. Membership has grown from the 44 governments represented at Bretton Woods to 147. The World Bank lent nearly \$12 billion (£9.7 bn) last year, drawing from the WMF to much the same figure.

Useful purpose

Yet the Fund and Bank are surrounded by critics, the most powerful residing less than a mile away, in the United States Treasury. Tension between borrowers and lenders is inevitable, and the Fund and Bank are used to abuse from both sides. But the questioning has become more fundamental. The most useful purpose of the IMF's "dialogue" (or poor man's summit) between developing and developed countries to which finance ministers committed themselves in Washington this weekend will be to focus on the role of these two institutions.

This proposed "dialogue" is, of course, a device by the United States and other industrial governments to avoid being drawn into a formal confrontation between debtors and borrowers, or the kind proposed by Latin American governments. The determination of the rich to keep any such confrontations within the confines of the Bretton Woods institutions is, in a sense, a compliment to their enduring usefulness. But the two institutions should be more than a kind of international public convenience - to fulfil their potential, their own roles need to be redefined.

A little history may be of use. The IMF grew up in a world of fixed currencies, in which all member governments, rich and poor, came to the fund to have parity changes approved, to make temporary borrowings to support agreed exchange rates and to receive special drawing rights, the IMF's own international currency issued to ensure sufficient international reserves to preserve a fixed-rate system.

Dominant voice

Now the IMF's "surveillance" of leading industrial government's exchange-rate policies is a farce - none has borrowed from the IMF since the late 1970s - and in Washington this weekend the United States, Germany, and Britain briskly vetoed the idea of a further allocation of SDRs, on the perfectly correct grounds that there is no shortage of international liquidity, even if it is imperfectly distributed.

From this has sprung passionate demands by developing countries for a "new Bretton Woods" to change the balance of power in the international monetary system. Most of this is foolish, an attempt to unmake the realities of world economic power by committee. Inevitably, the United States dominates

the IMF and World Bank: indeed, the distribution of voting power specifically reflects economic scale, so that the United States still holds nearly 20 per cent.

All of which makes wider American criticism of Fund and Bank sound like the bad workman who blames his tools. The IMF and World Bank are only the creatures of governments; they reflect, quickly enough, any wind of change in Washington. When President Reagan replaced President Carter, IMF lending policies tightened almost overnight. The United States does not have absolute control, and it can be persuaded into compromise - as it was this weekend over the proper limits on IMF loans. But in any fundamental reappraisal of the institutions, it would have the dominant voice.

The IMF's changing role, combined with the international debt crisis, have combined to turn into a kind of guarantor of developing-country credit worthiness. IMF "stand-by" loans depend on agreement by governments to make economic "adjustments", the commercial banks use these as the basis for their own loan policies. When money was coming out of their ears, an IMF standby would trigger a huge new flow of commercial bank lending, which often led governments into the economic trouble that would necessitate another plea to the IMF.

Thus the Fund acquired, not of its own volition, a list of permanent pensioners in the developing world. Now money is tight, it is having equal difficulty pushing them back into economic independence, and a whole list of new clients pushed to the back of the international banking queue by the demands of the biggest debtors.

New territory

With the full approval and encouragement of the leading industrial governments, the IMF is therefore being drawn into longer-term lending and economic policy planning. Both the London summit and the meeting of the key interim committee of finance ministers in Washington urged a greater role for the IMF in the multi-year rescheduling of international debt. But this is taking the IMF further and further into new territory - or rather, into territory already inhabited by the World Bank.

The World Bank's role is, in theory, quite separate: to lead long-term for economic development. But as it has moved, in part, from lending for specific projects to lending for the development of whole industrial sectors, or to promote policy changes in developing economies as a whole, so its role too has moved closer to the IMF's. Now both the United States and Britain are urging closer cooperation between the two institutions. Cooperation is valuable. Confusion is dangerously possible.

The United States wishes to see the World Bank attach more conditions to its loans, in imitation of the International Monetary Fund. But their purposes are essentially different. The IMF's view of economic policy is that it should be designed to correct payments imbalances as quickly as possible - the Bank believes it should tend to promote growth.

The more the two overlap, the greater the risk of a loose muddle of loans underpinned by contradictory policy objectives. That would be an ironic result of an American endeavour to "get tough" with the two institutions and their clients.

Sarah Hogg
Economics Editor

IMF tightens purse strings despite debtors' objections

From Bailey Morris and Sarah Hogg, Washington

Finance ministers of the industrialized nations have voted to reduce the access of poor nations to the resources of the International Monetary Fund, citing economic recovery which they said had been more rapid than expected.

The largely symbolic reduction in access to the IMF's resources was adopted by the fund's powerful interim committee over the strong objections of Third World nations. They argued that the needs of debtor nations would continue to be great throughout the 1980s.

At the same time, the industrialized nations rejected a demand by developing countries that the IMF's resources be increased through another allocation of special drawing rights (SDRs), the fund's reserve currency.

Other important issues which arose during the sessions preceding the formal opening today of the annual meeting of the IMF and the World Bank were:

● A decision not to establish a special fund for beleaguered

nations in sub-Saharan Africa. Instead, discussions on ways to help the region through a special action programme prepared by the World Bank were underway.

● Negotiations between Argentina and the IMF on an economic austerity programme necessary to pave the way for rescheduling talks with commercial banks continued, but an agreement was not likely during the annual meeting, officials said.

● A decision was taken to study the future roles of the bank and the fund in special discussions centered on papers to be prepared by both institutions and completed by next spring.

● A decision to hold a high-level international forum on debt next spring.

Britain, the United States, West Germany and other powerful nations agreed that, given the strong recovery, there was not sufficient evidence to demonstrate a global liquidity



Donald Regan: a break with tradition

shortage requiring a potentially inflationary SDR allocation. Developing countries had appealed for the added resources to support growth in world trade which they said was essential for struggling debtor nations.

Ministers also decided to launch an important new initiative first raised this year at the London economic summit to respond to the demands of

developing nations for a high-level international meeting.

Although the format is still under discussion, ministers agreed to hold a special international forum on debt next spring.

At the urging of industrialized nations, the interim committee will play an important role in the debt discussion in conjunction with the development committee, officials said.

The British position was that it would have been unthinkable not to respond to the political demands of debtor nations but that this did not require a new framework to discuss the problem. Britain along with the US and other European nations supported the current case-by-case approach to the debt problem and remained strongly opposed to a multilateral solution.

In a break with tradition, the opening greetings to delegates was delivered today by Mr Donald Regan, the US Treasury Secretary, and not President Regan, who was in New York to address the United Nations

Crisis blueprint for Africa

By Michael Prest

Changes in the policies of governments in sub-Saharan Africa, better donor coordination and project selection, and fresh capital are vital to avert an economic disaster in Africa, the World Bank says in a report released today.

The report blames much of Africa's crisis on the continent's governments. It says that unless individual African governments implement programmes concentrating on the more rapid growth of

their economies in the short, medium term and longer term, international assistance cannot do the job.

The report, *Toward Sustained Development: A Joint Programme of Action for Sub-Saharan Africa*, estimates that last year the region's 39 developing countries suffered a 3.8 per cent contraction in per capita gross domestic products.

It says few African countries appreciate the urgency and scale of action required. Donors are

blamed for too many commercial and strategic considerations in aid decisions. "Genuine mistakes and misfortunes cannot explain the excessive number of 'white elephants', the report says.

Better use of investment must be made by allowing market price incentives, depreciating overvalued currencies, encouraging private investment from abroad and greater emphasis on maintenance and rehabilitation instead of new projects.

£38m value expected for Stone

By Our Financial Staff

Details of the flotation of Stone International, the electrical company saved from the failed Stone-Platt engineering and textile machinery group, will be finalized early this week.

Stone International, which is being brought to the market by the merchant bank, Charterhouse Japfel, and the stockbrokers, Panmure Gordon, will be raising about £12m of new money through the offer for sale. The underwriting will be carried out on Thursday and prospectuses advertised on Monday.

Shares in Stone will be priced at between 120p and 130p valuing the company at about £38m. That compares with the £15m price tag when the management arranged a buyout of the Stone-Platt electrical division from the receivers less than two and-a-half years ago.

The management, which put up £275,000 of its own money under the buyout and has 25 per cent of the shares, will not be selling any shares although its stake will be diluted to 20 per cent.

About half the £12m raised will go towards repaying expensive term debt and preference stock which was part of the management buyout.

Maxwell takes bid to OFT

By Jonathan Davis, Business Correspondent

Mr Robert Maxwell, the millionaire publisher and newspaper proprietor, said yesterday that he is pressing ahead with his bid to cap Trafalgar House's £15m takeover of the RGC North Sea construction yard owned by British Steel.

Speaking after the publication of the latest profit figures from his private company, Pergamon Press, Mr Maxwell said he would be contacting the Office of Fair Trading today about his £16m offer for the RGC yard at Methil, Fife.

He said a formal offer had been submitted to British Steel last week, and he would be following this today with submissions to the OFT about

the competitive implications of the bid.

Trafalgar House has been insisting that its bid had been agreed unconditionally with British Steel on August 7, and cannot now be revoked. "The saga is not over", Mr Maxwell said.

Pergamon, which is the parent company for Mr Maxwell's interests, including British Printing and Communication Corporation, and Mirror Group Newspapers, more than doubled its pretax profits from £12m to £25m in the first half of the year.

After tax, minorities and extraordinary items, the net profit was £18m, against £8m.

US NOTEBOOK

Fortnight of effort pays off for Fed

From Maxwell Newton, New York

After more than two weeks of consistent effort, the Federal Reserve finally brought the Federal Funds rate below 11 per cent and achieved a cut in the prime rate on Friday.

Morgan Guaranty gave the Fed its prime rate cut just in time for the International Monetary Fund meeting this week and with ample time to spare for another cut in time for the elections in early November.

The cost of the operation has been high. On almost every day in the last two weeks, the Fed has conducted repurchase agreements which have had the effect of spilling liquid funds into the financial market place.

Those funds have had immediate impact in the Federal Funds market, where banks borrow overnight money.

The rise in the Federal Funds rate began at the end of May, when the Fed began its programme of massive credit extension to Continental Illinois National Bank. That programme drained cash from the rest of the banking system and diverted it to the Chicago bank. Between early May and August 15, "borrowings from Federal Reserve Banks" (the source of funds for Continental Illinois) boomed from \$1 billion to a peak of \$8.692 billion.

THE GILT-EDGED MARKET

Summertime blues return

Ian Harwood

In these anxious days of the looming "Big Bang" in the London Stock Exchange, no gilt-edged brokers take 10-week holidays from July any more. Instead, they had been returning to their screen-compromised desks last week, they might have wondered why a replay of their last week in the office in July was under way.

British interest rates are again on a knife-edge, and the gilt market is all of a dither. The dollar is once more on the offensive, and in the short-term at least is likely to continue rising whatever the direction of American interest rates.

The British Government has again convinced to put the pound into the weakest position it possibly can (or so it would seem to the jaundiced eye). So any setback, temporary or otherwise, on the domestic industrial front, could serve as a green light to international currency speculators.

The only comfort our well-holidayed broker could find would be a much calmer atmosphere in the oil market than in July, when spot prices were falling, and a much healthier run of money, credit and public borrowing statistics. These figures alone are not enough to eliminate the possibility that the recent move in base rates, now standing at 10.5 per cent, will be upwards.

Early last week the pound, which had in the previous week held up better than other

leading currencies in the face of the resurgent dollar, started to slip sharply against other currencies as well. This was largely on disappointment over the collapse of the previous week's coal industry negotiations. However, the disappointment was counterbalanced by some more encouraging industrial news as the week progressed, when the dockers agreed to end their patchy strike and return to work.

So from midweek, the pound staged a recovery against the dollar, but the recovery was well disguised by the generally quoted "pound/dollar" rate, which continued to reflect the strength of the American currency.

So why is the pound vulnerable now? The industrial scene is still far from settled, with the TUC trying to muster support for the miners among groups of workers in the power and transport industries.

On top of that, the authorities have taken away the interest rate support for the currency established in July when base rates were raised by nearly 3 percentage points to 12 per cent. This has been done both by reducing rates precipitately early last month while US rates remained stubbornly high, and by giving the markets the impression that they will be

reluctant to push up rates again to defend the pound.

In July it was a question of "too little, too late" when it came to raising rates, and in August, when it came to reducing them in three half-pint instalments, of "too much, too soon."

No early resolution of the mining impasse seems in sight and the threat of sympathy action on the part of other groups of workers will remain, leaving a pall over the exchange rate, money market rates and gilts.

Meanwhile, the dollar seems set to keep motoring regardless of changes in interest rate sentiment in the very near-term at least, because it is now a classic no-lose situation. If interest rates remain firm, the dollar remains attractive in its own right. If rates do indeed start to fall - on the back of a moderating economy - then US financial markets will have a strong run and pull in foreign investors who wish to take part and who will need to buy dollars to do so.

Once the markets had completed their run, the whiplash back out of the dollar could be impressive indeed. After the election - or before?

The author is an economist at Rowe & Pitman, the stock broker

Pound index by the hour

Sterling's effective exchange rate against other leading currencies will be published hourly from today.

This move is part of the Government's attempt to focus attention on the pound's overall value instead of its worth against the dollar. The Sterling Exchange Rate Index, as it will now be called, measures the pound's worth against 18 currencies of Britain's main trading partners.

Since the start of the year, the index has fallen by 7.2 per cent, while the pound has slipped by 1.4 per cent against the strong dollar.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
an \$338.75 pm \$343.50
close \$346.25 - 347.75 (£277.50 - 278)
New York \$347.25
Kruggerand (per gram):
\$257 - \$262 (\$266.00 - 267.00)
Sovereigns (new):
\$82 - \$83 (£65.75 - 66.75)
*Excludes VAT

BOARD MEETINGS

TODAY - Interims: Asbury and Madeley (Holdings), Beaton Clark, Boase Masimmi Pollit, Enterprise Oil, Freemans, Hestair, Lasmo, MCD Group, Metair, Moss Bros, Panhandle, Planet Group, Superdrug Stores, Thomson T-Line, Travis and Arnold, United Friendly Insurance, Wordplew Information Systems, Final: S. Gaskel, Lmk House Publications, Parker-Knoll.
TOMORROW - Interims: Bank of Scotland, Combined English Stores, Cussans Property, Dancora, Estates and General Investments, Falcon Mines, Finky Packagings, Hoskins and Horton, I D C Group, Lorin Electronics, Wm Morris Frio Arts, Northern Engineering Industries, Octopus Publishing, Scott and Robertson, Steadley, Stockley, United Newspapers, Wainwright (Holdings), Final: Acorn Computer, Acrow, Ballie Gifford Japan Trust, Arthur Bell and Sons, Dunton Group, Minerals and Resources Corp, Park Place Investments, Samuelson Group.

WEDNESDAY - Interims: Charterhouse J-Rothschild, D R G, Fosco Minsep, Jove Investment Trust, Manders (Holdings), Newbold and Burton Holdings, Harold Perry Motors, Platinium, I D and S Rvin, R M C Group, Tibury Group, Tool, Wingate Property Investment, Final: A B Electronics, Associated Book Publishers, Atlantic Computers, Ramar Textiles.
THURSDAY - Interims: Aberdeen Construction, Seaford Group, Bentalis, Central Independent TV, Inchcape, Newarthill, Sandhurst Marketing, Wm Sindall, Spear and Jackson International, Spectra Auto and Engineering Products, Jockers, Whiteman Reeve Angel, James White George Wimpey, W F Group, Final: Adwest Group, Britannia Security Group, Charterhall, Dowling and Mills, Ferry Pickering, Home Farm Products, Throgmorton Secured Growth Trust.

FRIDAY - Interims: Arbutnot, Dollar Income Fund, Barmuda International Bond Fund, Executive Clothes, Charles Hurst, Offield Inspection Services, P L M Toys and Co, Final: Blue Bird Confectionery.

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Mail to: Mr T. I. Weatherhead (REF TBTM)
London Chamber of Commerce and Industry
69, Cannon Street, London EC4N 3AB

☐ I would like to attend. Please confirm my reservation.
☐ Please send me full details.

☐ I cannot attend, but please have a Tampa Bay delegate contact me for a private appointment.

Name _____ Title _____
Company _____ Address _____
Telephone _____ Telex _____

STOCK EXCHANGES

Changes on week
FT-SE 100 Index: 1127.7 up 18.1
FT Index: 871.4 up 12.0
FT Gilt: 80.26 down 0.13
FT All Share: 520.80 up 7.03
Burgundy: 19.504
Dataseam USM Leaders
Index: 103.21 up 1.38
New York Dow Jones Industrial
Average: 1201.74 down 35.78
Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones Index
10,505.11 up 116.43
Hongkong Hang Seng Index
1,002.23 up 58.79
Amsterdam 176.3 up 5.5
Sydney AO Index 725.7 down 0.3
Frankfurt Commerzbank Index
1,068.2 up 27.1
Brussels General Index 182.78
down 0.82

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 10%
Finance houses base rate 11%
Discount market loans week fixed
10% - 10%
3 month interbank 10 - 10%

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	10 1/2 %
Adam & Company	10 1/2 %
Barclays	10 1/2 %
BCCI	10 1/2 %
Citibank Savings	12 %
Consolidated Crds	10 1/2 %
Continental Trust	10 1/2 %
C. Hoare & Co	10 1/2 %
Lloyds Bank	10 1/2 %
Midland Bank	10 1/2 %
Nat Westminster	10 1/2 %
TSB	10 1/2 %
Williams & Glyn's	10 1/2 %
Citibank NA	10 1/2 %

* 7 day deposits on sums of under £10,000, 7% to 10,000 up to £50,000, 8%, £50,000 and over, 9%.

RACING: NEWMARKET'S MIDDLE PARK STAKES IS THE OBJECTIVE FOR HERN'S OUTSTANDING NEWBURY WINNER

Derby could be target for talented Irish filly

Afraah to confirm promise of Goodwood run

From Our Irish Racing Correspondent, Dublin

No filly has won the Derby since Fillyella in 1916, but if all goes well Aldar's Best will be the first to do so. The Oaks will be the first objective for this David O'Brien-trained filly. She made her debut in the group three Silken Glider Stakes at Leopardstown on Saturday and, installed as 5-4 favourite, won in smashing style over a mile.

From a bad effort, Aldar's Best had to make her effort on the inside and struck the front inside the final furlong to win by three lengths from Sweetened Oats.

Bred in America, Aldar's Best is out of a full sister to Gyr, who had the misfortune to be foaled in the same year as Nijinsky. As a yearling, Aldar's Best cost Mr Alan Clere £625,000. A big backward filly she was not broken until late spring.

David O'Brien is willing for her to take on the colts, and is aiming for the William Hill Futurity at Doncaster.

The group three Levenson/Glen-Castleman Stakes provided Dr Tony O'Reilly, with his biggest success as an owner. His three-year-old son, Castleman, has won the same race in five furlongs to five wins from five starts by holding off Flame Of Tara and Congress Palace.

● Bare Essence (Willie Carson) finished eighth, nine to Alan Ford in the £16,470 Premio Federico Tesio at San Siro, Milan, yesterday.

By Mandarin

Two-year-old races at Newbury throw up an abundance of future winners, and a case in point this season was the Tote Spring Festival Stakes, run at the Berkshire course on May 19. Seven of the 10 runners in that contest have now won and Afraah, the only one yet to oblige can underline the quality of that race by taking the second division of the Tormorton Maiden Stakes at Bath this afternoon.

After following her Newbury fourth with a slightly disappointing fifth at Salisbury, Afraah's form was behind when chasing home Frank Durr's improving filly, Sumera, at Goodwood 10 days ago. Sumera franked that form when winning again at Catterick on Saturday.

Among those behind Afraah at Goodwood were Capo Di Monte and Galaxie Dust, both of whom had won their previous races in style. As that was Afraah's first race for more than three months, she is thought to have benefited from the outing and I expect her to have too much race for probable market rival, Armador.

The first division of the Bath Maiden Stakes is a race for fillies, who showed exceptional promise on her Newbury debut 10 days ago. Geoff Huffer's colt ran fast for five furlongs in the race won by Downing Street, and finished a comfortable fourth. Over the minimum trip this afternoon, Phoen's chance is outstanding.



Classic style: Local Suitor (left) accelerates away from a high-class field to win Newbury's Mill Reef Stakes (Photograph: Eddie Byrne)

Local Suitor shows his class

Local Suitor emerged as England's leading sire for the 1985 2,000 Guineas after a convincing victory in the Mill Reef Stakes, sponsored by Robby Farms, at Newbury on Saturday. Bookmakers quote Stashik Mohammed's colt, who was following a winning debut at York in the Cornhill Stakes, at prices ranging from 12-1 to 20-1 for the first colts' classic.

Willie Carson burst clear in the last 100 yards of Local Suitor to beat Prestidigit by one and a half lengths. It was an impressive performance as the 11 runners behind him were well beaten. Local Suitor's trainer, Dick Hern, said: "This colt is in the top bracket among my two-year-olds and runs next in the Middle Park Stakes. He will get further than four furlongs and we could not get him right for the spring season. He'll win group races next season."

Dewhurst is next for impressive Noblequest

From Desmond Statham, Paris

Robert Collet trained the first three home in the group one Prix de la Salamandre at Longchamps yesterday. Noblequest won by three-quarters of a length from Northern Walker, with No Pass No Sale a length and a half away in third place.

All three two-year-olds have different owners, with Noblequest becoming the first group one winner for Prince Al-Kabir, who has 28 horses with Collet at Chantilly. Collet paid 100 to 1 for the greatest moment in his career and I will now run Noblequest in the Dewhurst Stakes at Newmarket.

The Prix de Lutèce, over 15 furlongs, went in impressive style to the Croquette Head-trained Agouti Doublé, who now goes for the Prix de la Seine at Maisons-Laffitte on October 28.

An each-way investment on Forzando (Bruce Raymond) could be the best value in the group three Prix de Seine-et-Oise over six furlongs at Maisons-Laffitte this afternoon.

PRIZE LIST: 1st-2nd-3rd-4th-5th-6th-7th-8th-9th-10th-11th-12th-13th-14th-15th-16th-17th-18th-19th-20th-21st-22nd-23rd-24th-25th-26th-27th-28th-29th-30th-31st-32nd-33rd-34th-35th-36th-37th-38th-39th-40th-41st-42nd-43rd-44th-45th-46th-47th-48th-49th-50th-51st-52nd-53rd-54th-55th-56th-57th-58th-59th-60th-61st-62nd-63rd-64th-65th-66th-67th-68th-69th-70th-71st-72nd-73rd-74th-75th-76th-77th-78th-79th-80th-81st-82nd-83rd-84th-85th-86th-87th-88th-89th-90th-91st-92nd-93rd-94th-95th-96th-97th-98th-99th-100th-101st-102nd-103rd-104th-105th-106th-107th-108th-109th-110th-111th-112th-113th-114th-115th-116th-117th-118th-119th-120th-121st-122nd-123rd-124th-125th-126th-127th-128th-129th-130th-131st-132nd-133rd-134th-135th-136th-137th-138th-139th-140th-141st-142nd-143rd-144th-145th-146th-147th-148th-149th-150th-151st-152nd-153rd-154th-155th-156th-157th-158th-159th-160th-161st-162nd-163rd-164th-165th-166th-167th-168th-169th-170th-171st-172nd-173rd-174th-175th-176th-177th-178th-179th-180th-181st-182nd-183rd-184th-185th-186th-187th-188th-189th-190th-191st-192nd-193rd-194th-195th-196th-197th-198th-199th-200th-201st-202nd-203rd-204th-205th-206th-207th-208th-209th-210th-211st-212th-213th-214th-215th-216th-217th-218th-219th-220th-221st-222nd-223rd-224th-225th-226th-227th-228th-229th-230th-231st-232nd-233rd-234th-235th-236th-237th-238th-239th-240th-241st-242nd-243rd-244th-245th-246th-247th-248th-249th-250th-251st-252nd-253rd-254th-255th-256th-257th-258th-259th-260th-261st-262nd-263rd-264th-265th-266th-267th-268th-269th-270th-271st-272nd-273rd-274th-275th-276th-277th-278th-279th-280th-281st-282nd-283rd-284th-285th-286th-287th-288th-289th-290th-291st-292nd-293rd-294th-295th-296th-297th-298th-299th-300th-301st-302nd-303rd-304th-305th-306th-307th-308th-309th-310th-311st-312th-313th-314th-315th-316th-317th-318th-319th-320th-321st-322nd-323rd-324th-325th-326th-327th-328th-329th-330th-331st-332nd-333rd-334th-335th-336th-337th-338th-339th-340th-341st-342nd-343rd-344th-345th-346th-347th-348th-349th-350th-351st-352nd-353rd-354th-355th-356th-357th-358th-359th-360th-361st-362nd-363rd-364th-365th-366th-367th-368th-369th-370th-371st-372nd-373rd-374th-375th-376th-377th-378th-379th-380th-381st-382nd-383rd-384th-385th-386th-387th-388th-389th-390th-391st-392nd-393rd-394th-395th-396th-397th-398th-399th-400th-401st-402nd-403rd-404th-405th-406th-407th-408th-409th-410th-411st-412th-413th-414th-415th-416th-417th-418th-419th-420th-421st-422nd-423rd-424th-425th-426th-427th-428th-429th-430th-431st-432nd-433rd-434th-435th-436th-437th-438th-439th-440th-441st-442nd-443rd-444th-445th-446th-447th-448th-449th-450th-451st-452nd-453rd-454th-455th-456th-457th-458th-459th-460th-461st-462nd-463rd-464th-465th-466th-467th-468th-469th-470th-471st-472nd-473rd-474th-475th-476th-477th-478th-479th-480th-481st-482nd-483rd-484th-485th-486th-487th-488th-489th-490th-491st-492nd-493rd-494th-495th-496th-497th-498th-499th-500th-501st-502nd-503rd-504th-505th-506th-507th-508th-509th-510th-511st-512th-513th-514th-515th-516th-517th-518th-519th-520th-521st-522nd-523rd-524th-525th-526th-527th-528th-529th-530th-531st-532nd-533rd-534th-535th-536th-537th-538th-539th-540th-541st-542nd-543rd-544th-545th-546th-547th-548th-549th-550th-551st-552nd-553rd-554th-555th-556th-557th-558th-559th-560th-561st-562nd-563rd-564th-565th-566th-567th-568th-569th-570th-571st-572nd-573rd-574th-575th-576th-577th-578th-579th-580th-581st-582nd-583rd-584th-585th-586th-587th-588th-589th-590th-591st-592nd-593rd-594th-595th-596th-597th-598th-599th-600th-601st-602nd-603rd-604th-605th-606th-607th-608th-609th-610th-611st-612th-613th-614th-615th-616th-617th-618th-619th-620th-621st-622nd-623rd-624th-625th-626th-627th-628th-629th-630th-631st-632nd-633rd-634th-635th-636th-637th-638th-639th-640th-641st-642nd-643rd-644th-645th-646th-647th-648th-649th-650th-651st-652nd-653rd-654th-655th-656th-657th-658th-659th-660th-661st-662nd-663rd-664th-665th-666th-667th-668th-669th-670th-671st-672nd-673rd-674th-675th-676th-677th-678th-679th-680th-681st-682nd-683rd-684th-685th-686th-687th-688th-689th-690th-691st-692nd-693rd-694th-695th-696th-697th-698th-699th-700th-701st-702nd-703rd-704th-705th-706th-707th-708th-709th-710th-711st-712th-713th-714th-715th-716th-717th-718th-719th-720th-721st-722nd-723rd-724th-725th-726th-727th-728th-729th-730th-731st-732nd-733rd-734th-735th-736th-737th-738th-739th-740th-741st-742nd-743rd-744th-745th-746th-747th-748th-749th-750th-751st-752nd-753rd-754th-755th-756th-757th-758th-759th-760th-761st-762nd-763rd-764th-765th-766th-767th-768th-769th-770th-771st-772nd-773rd-774th-775th-776th-777th-778th-779th-780th-781st-782nd-783rd-784th-785th-786th-787th-788th-789th-790th-791st-792nd-793rd-794th-795th-796th-797th-798th-799th-800th-801st-802nd-803rd-804th-805th-806th-807th-808th-809th-810th-811st-812th-813th-814th-815th-816th-817th-818th-819th-820th-821st-822nd-823rd-824th-825th-826th-827th-828th-829th-830th-831st-832nd-833rd-834th-835th-836th-837th-838th-839th-840th-841st-842nd-843rd-844th-845th-846th-847th-848th-849th-850th-851st-852nd-853rd-854th-855th-856th-857th-858th-859th-860th-861st-862nd-863rd-864th-865th-866th-867th-868th-869th-870th-871st-872nd-873rd-874th-875th-876th-877th-878th-879th-880th-881st-882nd-883rd-884th-885th-886th-887th-888th-889th-890th-891st-892nd-893rd-894th-895th-896th-897th-898th-899th-900th-901st-902nd-903rd-904th-905th-906th-907th-908th-909th-910th-911st-912th-913th-914th-915th-916th-917th-918th-919th-920th-921st-922nd-923rd-924th-925th-926th-927th-928th-929th-930th-931st-932nd-933rd-934th-935th-936th-937th-938th-939th-940th-941st-942nd-943rd-944th-945th-946th-947th-948th-949th-950th-951st-952nd-953rd-954th-955th-956th-957th-958th-959th-960th-961st-962nd-963rd-964th-965th-966th-967th-968th-969th-970th-971st-972nd-973rd-974th-975th-976th-977th-978th-979th-980th-981st-982nd-983rd-984th-985th-986th-987th-988th-989th-990th-991st-992nd-993rd-994th-995th-996th-997th-998th-999th-1000th-1001st-1002nd-1003rd-1004th-1005th-1006th-1007th-1008th-1009th-1010th-1011st-1012th-1013th-1014th-1015th-1016th-1017th-1018th-1019th-1020th-1021st-1022nd-1023rd-1024th-1025th-1026th-1027th-1028th-1029th-1030th-1031st-1032nd-1033rd-1034th-1035th-1036th-1037th-1038th-1039th-1040th-1041st-1042nd-1043rd-1044th-1045th-1046th-1047th-1048th-1049th-1050th-1051st-1052nd-1053rd-1054th-1055th-1056th-1057th-1058th-1059th-1060th-1061st-1062nd-1063rd-1064th-1065th-1066th-1067th-1068th-1069th-1070th-1071st-1072nd-1073rd-1074th-1075th-1076th-1077th-1078th-1079th-1080th-1081st-1082nd-1083rd-1084th-1085th-1086th-1087th-1088th-1089th-1090th-1091st-1092nd-1093rd-1094th-1095th-1096th-1097th-1098th-1099th-1100th-1101st-1102nd-1103rd-1104th-1105th-1106th-1107th-1108th-1109th-1110th-1111st-1112th-1113th-1114th-1115th-1116th-1117th-1118th-1119th-1120th-1121st-1122nd-1123rd-1124th-1125th-1126th-1127th-1128th-1129th-1130th-1131st-1132nd-1133rd-1134th-1135th-1136th-1137th-1138th-1139th-1140th-1141st-1142nd-1143rd-1144th-1145th-1146th-1147th-1148th-1149th-1150th-1151st-1152nd-1153rd-1154th-1155th-1156th-1157th-1158th-1159th-1160th-1161st-1162nd-1163rd-1164th-1165th-1166th-1167th-1168th-1169th-1170th-1171st-1172nd-1173rd-1174th-1175th-1176th-1177th-1178th-1179th-1180th-1181st-1182nd-1183rd-1184th-1185th-1186th-1187th-1188th-1189th-1190th-1191st-1192nd-1193rd-1194th-1195th-1196th-1197th-1198th-1199th-1200th-1201st-1202nd-1203rd-1204th-1205th-1206th-1207th-1208th-1209th-1210th-1211st-1212th-1213th-1214th-1215th-1216th-1217th-1218th-1219th-1220th-1221st-1222nd-1223rd-1224th-1225th-1226th-1227th-1228th-1229th-1230th-1231st-1232nd-1233rd-1234th-1235th-1236th-1237th-1238th-1239th-1240th-1241st-1242nd-1243rd-1244th-1245th-1246th-1247th-1248th-1249th-1250th-1251st-1252nd-1253rd-1254th-1255th-1256th-1257th-1258th-1259th-1260th-1261st-1262nd-1263rd-1264th-1265th-1266th-1267th-1268th-1269th-1270th-1271st-1272nd-1273rd-1274th-1275th-1276th-1277th-1278th-1279th-1280th-1281st-1282nd-1283rd-1284th-1285th-1286th-1287th-1288th-1289th-1290th-1291st-1292nd-1293rd-1294th-1295th-1296th-1297th-1298th-1299th-1300th-1301st-1302nd-1303rd-1304th-1305th-1306th-1307th-1308th-1309th-1310th-1311st-1312th-1313th-1314th-1315th-1316th-1317th-1318th-1319th-1320th-1321st-1322nd-1323rd-1324th-1325th-1326th-1327th-1328th-1329th-1330th-1331st-1332nd-1333rd-1334th-1335th-1336th-1337th-1338th-1339th-1340th-1341st-1342nd-1343rd-1344th-1345th-1346th-1347th-1348th-1349th-1350th-1351st-1352nd-1353rd-1354th-1355th-1356th-1357th-1358th-1359th-1360th-1361st-1362nd-1363rd-1364th-1365th-1366th-1367th-1368th-1369th-1370th-1371st-1372nd-1373rd-1374th-1375th-1376th-1377th-1378th-1379th-1380th-1381st-1382nd-1383rd-1384th-1385th-1386th-1387th-1388th-1389th-1390th-1391st-1392nd-1393rd-1394th-1395th-1396th-1397th-1398th-1399th-1400th-1401st-1402nd-1403rd-1404th-1405th-1406th-1407th-1408th-1409th-1410th-1411st-1412th-1413th-1414th-1415th-1416th-1417th-1418th-1419th-1420th-1421st-1422nd-1423rd-1424th-1425th-1426th-1427th-1428th-1429th-1430th-1431st-1432nd-1433rd-1434th-1435th-1436th-1437th-1438th-1439th-1440th-1441st-1442nd-1443rd-1444th-1445th-1446th-1447th-1448th-1449th-1450th-1451st-1452nd-1453rd-1454th-1455th-1456th-1457th-1458th-1459th-1460th-1461st-1462nd-1463rd-1464th-1465th-1466th-1467th-1468th-1469th-1470th-1471st-1472nd-1473rd-1474th-1475th-1476th-1477th-1478th-1479th-1480th-1481st-1482nd-1483rd-1484th-1485th-1486th-1487th-1488th-1489th-1490th-1491st-1492nd-1493rd-1494th-1495th-1496th-1497th-1498th-1499th-1500th-1501st-1502nd-1503rd-1504th-1505th-1506th-1507th-1508th-1509th-1510th-1511st-1512th-1513th-1514th-1515th-1516th-1517th-1518th-1519th-1520th-1521st-1522nd-1523rd-1524th-1525th-1526th-1527th-1528th-1529th-1530th-1531st-1532nd-1533rd-1534th-1535th-1536th-1537th-1538th-1539th-1540th-1541st-1542nd-1543rd-1544th-1545th-1546th-1547th-1548th-1549th-1550th-1551st-1552nd-1553rd-1554th-1555th-1556th-1557th-1558th-1559th-1560th-1561st-1562nd-1563rd-1564th-1565th-1566th-1567th-1568th-1569th-1570th-1571st-1572nd-1573rd-1574th-1575th-1576th-1577th-1578th-1579th-1580th-1581st-1582nd-1583rd-1584th-1585th-1586th-1587t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HORIZONS

The Times guide to career choice

Tough to join the Ten's top few

While it is always tempting to complain about the waste and the cost of bureaucracies it must be borne in mind that they serve the useful function of creating jobs. The larger institutions in the UK, in the public or the private sectors, have, until the last five years, been seen as a safe way to have a career and job; given this it is strange that the European Commission, and other EEC bodies which trail behind them a public aura of mega-bureaucracy, which have not been more sought after as a source of jobs.

There are two major reasons for this. First, the number of people employed by the commission is relatively small, certainly by national government staffing levels, let alone when compared with those in the UK. The commission employs 12,500 people full-time and about 500 part-time. The Council of Ministers, the European Parliament, the Economic and Social Committee, the European Court of Auditors and the European Court of Justice employ another 5,500 full-timers and 350 part-timers. The entire complex is staffed by roughly the number of practising dentists in the UK. This surprisingly small number does not reflect fully the difficulty for UK nationals in getting a job.

Each of the 10 member countries compete with each other, and for fairness sake there are quotas. It follows that the UK share is probably

Barrie Sherman on the difficulties of getting a job as a Brussels bureaucrat

The letter sent from the EEC office in London to inquirers is hardly encouraging: "There is, therefore, a very slim possibility of your obtaining a job as a European official. In particular, it is highly improbable that a university graduate would be taken on without experience of work subsequent to his or her academic career." It is clear that doing well in the examination is no guarantee of a job.

Those who are successful are, by and large, placed on a reserve list to await suitable vacancies. Anyone in dire need of a quick job had better look elsewhere. The only stipulation for a successful applicant is that the candidate should be an EEC national, have some practical experience and have a working knowledge of another community working language. Older people may also have a problem.

The commission prefers to recruit people nearer to the start than the end of their careers. The upper age limit is between 30 and 35 in most instances. There are two exceptions to the competition rule, three if one counts the tiny number of overly political appointments. The first is for specialists who may be in short supply, especially within the commission itself. These jobs may be advertised or may be filled by people "known to the commission"; the chances of obtaining one of these is remote.

Another category, the locally employed, have some jobs available but the commission maintains a small staff in the UK in addition to which no EEC institutions or buildings are based here as yet, although one will be ready shortly. The number of non-competitive local jobs is thus very limited too (more than in most other member states) when available they are advertised in the national and regional press.

The types of jobs available, excluding local jobs which are mainly manual, are divided into three groups. Level A, which accounts for approximately one in eight of the total, is the equivalent of the old admin grade in the Civil Service. More specialized

qualifications are needed however, degrees should be in subjects such as the law, economics or systems analysis, and there is the possibility of a five-month training course.

Level B which is the equivalent of the executive officer grade discriminates against graduates, who are not eligible. At least two "A" levels are required, with experience in administration, statistics or accounting highly desirable.

Level C jobs - for typists, secretaries, telex operators, telephonists and clerical workers - correspond roughly to Civil Service clerical posts. These account for nearly half the total number of staff and yet again graduates are not allowed, but five "O" levels and appropriate training and experience are required. Bilingual secretaries are by far the most likely to get jobs. One suspects that the

Temptation to hide a degree

temptation to hide the possession of a degree may get pretty strong at times.

Another employment opening is for those without whom the EEC would come to a swift halt - the interpreters and translators. Degrees are needed which, in some circumstances, do not have to be in languages. All these jobs are filled by open competition and experience tells me that the standard, certainly among interpreters, is formidable.

Each of the community institutions recruits separately. Some jobs necessitate a considerable amount of travel between the various centres - Brussels, Luxembourg, Strasbourg etc. It may not be a staggeringly large career pool but if the EEC overcomes its financial problems and continues to expand its membership so the numbers will grow. Certainly the terms and conditions of service, as well as the salaries, are generous to a fault so that even the small opportunities are well worth looking for and the competitions worth entering.

SUGA (The Sheffield Unemployed Graduates Association as described in this column on September 10) says it is not an employment agency, but a self-help group to provide support and encouragement to graduates seeking work. While encouraging people to get in touch, it cannot find jobs for graduates.

Exam success no guarantee

no greater than 2,000 to 2,500 jobs. Where there are British commissioners, staffing tends to reflect their choices and a "cabinet" forms, but since the early days of membership these have been primarily Civil Service inspired appointments.

The second reason for the lack of publicity about jobs is that many, although not all, are obtained as a result of open competition. Rather like the Civil Service examinations they are not known for being exceptionally easy. The official journal of the EEC, which can be found in most libraries and university career offices or obtained from the EEC office in London, carries the timetable and other information. An easier route is to look for the advertisements in *The Times*.

Educational

HAILEYBURY COLLEGE, HERTFORD

BURSAR

The Council of Haileybury invites applications for the post of Bursar and Secretary to the Council, the appointment to commence in June 1985 or earlier in 1985.

Remuneration to be negotiated. Basic salary likely to be in the region of £20,000-£22,500 with, in addition, pension contributions, car and entertainment allowances, provision of house, school fees remission and other benefits.

Full particulars available from: Captain W. R. H. Lapper, R.N., Haileybury, Hertford SG13 7NU.

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

REMOTE SENSING UNIT

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

Applications are invited for the post of a University student Research Assistant in Remote Sensing to be based at the Department of Geography, University of Bristol, 100 Woodland Road, Bristol BS8 1TL. The post is for 1 year, with a view to extension. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the Remote Sensing Unit, which is a small but growing unit. The candidate will be expected to assist in the development of the unit, and to carry out research in the field of remote sensing. The post is for 1 year, with a view to extension. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the Remote Sensing Unit, which is a small but growing unit. The candidate will be expected to assist in the development of the unit, and to carry out research in the field of remote sensing.

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

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DIOCESE OF TRURO
Director of Education & Secretary to the Diocesan Board of Education

Applications for this post are invited from persons having a recognised educational qualification and relevant teaching and administrative experience who are active Communicant members of the Church of England, ordained or lay. Job specification and application form may be obtained from: The Diocesan Secretary, St Keyne House, Kenwyn, Truro Cornwall TR1 3DU and should be returned by Wednesday, 30 October 1984.

Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology LIBRARIAN/INFORMATION SCIENTIST

Applications are invited from persons with a recognised qualification in Librarianship or Information Science, and relevant experience in a hospital or research setting. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the library, and for the development of the service. The post is for 1 year, with a view to extension. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the library, and for the development of the service.

Further particulars should be obtained from the Director of the Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology, 100 Woodland Road, Bristol BS8 1TL, to whom applications should be sent by 15 October 1984. Please quote reference: 100/100/100.

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FRENCH TUTOR

Required, capable of teaching, must have experience in teaching, preferably in a school or college. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the French classes, and for the development of the service. The post is for 1 year, with a view to extension. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the French classes, and for the development of the service.

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ST CATHERINE'S COLLEGE THE GLAXO SCHOLARSHIP IN MEDICINE FOR GRADUATES

Applications are invited for a Scholarship in Medicine for graduates from October 1985. The scholarship will cover all fees and maintenance for the postgraduate period only. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the scholarship, and for the development of the service. The post is for 1 year, with a view to extension. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the scholarship, and for the development of the service.

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Educational

SCHOOLS AND FELLOWS

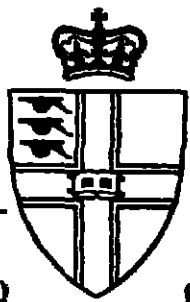
No other sixth form college has an old boy network quite like ours.



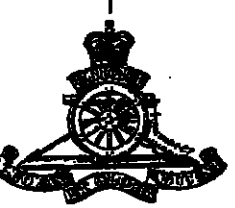
Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.



Welbeck College.



Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham.



Royal Artillery.



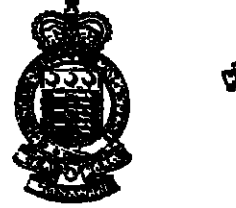
Royal Engineers.



Royal Signals.



Royal Corps of Transport.



Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

